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'ONE-TIME MAGNANIMITY'

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Victims of poor AQI also 'contributors' to the issue: SC

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Former Union Minister Suresh Kalmadi dies

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U.S.'s Venezuelan actions are most unlawful

U.S. move an affront to international law

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TAKING CHARGE

Smith and Head slam centuries on day three

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EC says it has constitutional duty to bar foreigners from voter rolls

Poll body defends SIR in the Supreme Court, insists it has power to verify citizenship status under the Constitution; it calls claims of the exercise being a 'parallel NRC' 'rhetoric', says roll revision counts only legal adults unlike citizenship register

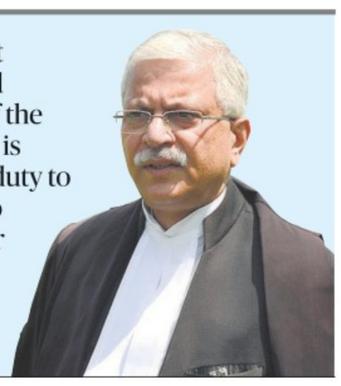
Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (EC) began its defence of the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls before the Supreme Court on Tuesday by dismissing claims that it is conducting a "parallel" National Register of Citizens (NRC) as sheer "rhetoric".

The poll body maintained that it has the "constitutional power, even a constitutional duty" to ensure that not a single foreigner, as far as possible, occupies space in the nation's electoral rolls.

The SIR kicked off in Bihar last year and expanded to cover 12 more States and Union Territories in the ongoing second phase.

> We are not concerned with the rhetoric of the political parties.... it is our constitutional duty to ensure there are no foreign voters as far as possible
>
> **RAKESH DWIVEDI**
> Senior advocate for the Election Commission



"We have a constitutional duty, and not just a constitutional power, to ensure no foreigners are there on the electoral rolls. It is not important how many foreigners are found... It was repeatedly asked of us to show how many foreigners were found in Bihar, but that is not important. Even if there was one foreigner, he had to be excluded. We are not concerned with the rhetoric of the political parties. They may be right or wrong. As the Election Commission, it is our constitutional duty to ensure there are no foreign voters as far as possible," senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the EC, clarified before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.

Mr. Dwivedi said the comparison of the SIR with the NRC was devoid of truth.

Faulty comparison

In the NRC, "all citizens", even those of unsound mind, were tallied, the EC said. In the SIR, only those 18 years and above were counted. The EC differentiated between the NRC conducted in Assam and the "special revision" of electoral rolls underway in the State.

The petitioners, who included Opposition parties and States, had argued that the SIR was merely a "citizenship drive" and a parallel NRC.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

2.89 crore voters deleted in U.P. draft electoral rolls

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
Mayank Kumar
NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

The Election Commission on Tuesday published the draft voter rolls under the special intensive revision in Uttar Pradesh with 2.89 crore names deleted, the highest in any State so far.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 15

Madras HC upholds order to light lamp at Madurai stone pillar

The Hindu Bureau
MADURAI

A Division Bench of the Madras High Court on Tuesday upheld an earlier single-judge order directing the Subramaniya Swamy Temple management in Madurai of Tamil Nadu to light the Karthigai Deepam at a stone pillar, identified as the *deepathoon*, atop Thirupparankundram Hill, dismissing fears of public disturbance as an "imaginary ghost", which would only happen if sponsored by the State itself.

The Tamil Nadu government plans to challenge the order in the Supreme Court, State Minister S. Regupathy told journalists after the ruling.

The Madurai Bench of Justices G. Jayachandran and K.K. Ramakrishnan criticised the State government for citing its apprehension of law and order issues and public peace as a reason for not complying with the earlier order of Justice G.R. Swaminathan.

'Imaginary ghost'

"It is ridiculous and hard to believe the fear of the mighty State that allowing representatives of the Devasthanam [temple management] to light the lamp at the stone pillar near top of the hill located within its territory of Devasthanam

> It is ridiculous and hard to believe the fear of the mighty State that allowing representatives of the Devasthanam to light the lamp... will cause disturbance to public peace
>
> **MADRAS HIGH COURT**
> (MADURAI BENCH)

land, on a particular day in a year, will cause disturbance to public peace. Of course, it may happen only if such disturbance is sponsored by the State itself. We pray no State should stoop to that level to achieve their political agenda," the court said.

'Incapacity exposed'

For the administration to act as though such a congregation will disturb the peace or cause stampedes or disharmony among communities is either an exposure of their incapacity to maintain law and order or their hesitation to bring harmony among communities, the court said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

NEARBY

Siddaramaiah to break Urs's record today

BENGALURU
Seventy-eight-year-old Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Wednesday will become the longest-serving Chief Minister of Karnataka by eclipsing the record held by his role model and the party's social justice icon D. Devaraj Urs. » PAGE 10

DKS blames Gali for violence in Ballari

KALABURAGI
Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar claimed that the violent clash between Congress and BJP workers in Ballari on January 1 was triggered by the act of Gali Janardhan Reddy and his supporters. » PAGE 10

Safari ban drives tourists to BBP

BENGALURU
The ban on safari at popular destinations has benefitted the Bannerughatta Biological Park, which saw record numbers during the holiday season.

» PAGE 3

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5

Leak at Andhra Pradesh ONGC natural gas well almost contained, say officials

T. Appala Naidu
RAZOLE

The blowout at the natural gas well owned by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC-Rajahmundry Asset) in Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Konaseema district of Andhra Pradesh has been contained by about 90% and people evacuated from the surroundings can return to their habitats by Wednesday, officials said on Tuesday evening.

A massive fire, with flames leaping up to a height of 25 metres, broke out on Monday following a gas leak at the Mori-5 well.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Fire fight: Safety personnel douse flames from a natural gas blowout at an ONGC well in Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Konaseema district, Andhra Pradesh, on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Maths paper of II PU prep exam leaks

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Mathematics question paper of the ongoing II PU preparatory examination was allegedly leaked, prompting an official of the Department of School Education (PU) to file a complaint with the police in Shivamogga.

The question paper leaked at Shivamogga was allegedly circulated through WhatsApp to other districts. The officers learnt about the incident around 11 a.m. on Tuesday when the examination was already on.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

Indian Embassy hired Trump aide's firm for talks on trade, bilateral ties during Operation Sindoor

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The Indian Embassy in Washington made four outreach requests, including three to White House officials and one to the U.S. trade representative on May 10, 2025, the day a ceasefire between India and Pakistan following Operation Sindoor was announced. It approached White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, Ricky Gill of the National Security Council, and Director of Communications Steven Cheung to discuss "media coverage" of the conflict, says a filing by U.S. lobby firm SHW LLC with the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ). While the filing, made in December 2025 on the DoJ's Foreign Agent Registration Act (FARA) website listing 60 entries, does not divulge whether the calls were made before or after the ceasefire, they indicate close interaction on the day.

Filings made by firms contracted by the Pakistan government also showed a flurry of activity to drum up support during the conflict, and a *New York Times* investigation in November 2024 showed how the country spent "millions" in trying to "win Mr. Trump over" .

The Narendra Modi government has thus far repeatedly denied that the U.S. played any role in mediating the India-Pakistan conflict, despite several claims by U.S. President Donald Trump, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio's decision to recognise Mr. Gill for the 'role' he played. The External Affairs Ministry has consistently denied Mr. Trump's contention that he had threatened to stop trade if the conflict was not ended, and the call made to Mr. Greer is particularly significant for that reason.

Responding to a detailed set of questions from *The Hindu*, the Indian Embassy did not deny the filings, saying only that hiring lobbyists is a "standard practice" in order to "augment outreach".

"The Indian Embassy has hired such firms, consistent with local practice and requirements, under successive governments since the 1950s," the Embassy spokesperson said, but did not respond to specific questions about why the lobby firms had been asked to fix meetings with senior U.S. officials or calls on May 10.

The practice for India is a first, say former and current Ministry officials, suggesting that the use of a former spokesperson of Mr. Trump, Jason Miller, who is listed as the Principal of SHW LLC, may have been due to the more "transactional" nature of the Trump administration.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Private diplomacy

The filings under U.S. Foreign Agent Registration Act by lobby firm SHW LLC marks India as the only client

- Filings show 60 entries from April 24, 2025, detailing requests from the Indian Embassy
- Total four requests for calls made on day of the Indo-Pak. ceasefire
- Half of the entries related to lobbying work on India-U.S. trade discussions
- Filings show, for the first time, a lobby firm asking to schedule meetings for External Affairs Minister and other officials

Close allies: U.S. President Donald Trump with Jason Miller, Principal of SHW LLC. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

World Cup triumph a big boost as Indian squash prepares for LA

The 17-year-old Anahat, who has displayed remarkable maturity and temperament, has the best opportunity to qualify; at 39, the evergreen Joshna will take it step-by-step in the build-up to the 2028 Games; Abhay's athleticism and tactical awareness have kept him in good stead while Ramit, Velavan and Veer are the others with Olympic dreams

K. Keerthivasan

R. RAGU

The 2028 Los Angeles Olympics is still some distance away, but for Indian squash, the countdown has already begun. When the sport makes its Olympic debut in the Entertainment Capital of the World, hopes will travel from local courts of Chennai and Delhi to the arc lights of Southern California – that at least one Indian will rise to the occasion and make a lasting impression.

Hope, though, must co-exist with reality. Squash enters an Olympic arena filled with depth and pedigree, and the qualification rules suggest that only players in the world's top-16 – both men's and women's singles – can punch a ticket to Los Angeles. It definitely sets a daunting task for India still striving to bridge the gap with the sport's traditional powerhouses such as England, Australia, France and now Egypt.

In the present PSA rankings, Anahat Singh stands out as India's brightest beacon. At only 17 years, she is at the phase of her career where she is on the path to glory, winning two PSA titles, including a maiden Copper level title in the Indian Open in Chennai last month, and thereby taking her overall career haul to 14. However, most of those victories have come on the Challenger circuit.

What makes Anahat special in her rapid rise has been her maturity, her court-craft under pressure, and her impressive performance against higher-ranked opponents – qualities that suggest she may yet push herself and make the grade.

Behind Anahat in world rankings, experience and persistence continue to define the women's contingent. Joshna Chinappa, at 39 years of age, remains India's second-highest-ranked player at world No. 78, a testament to a remarkable longevity at the top level. Tanvi Khanna (84) and Akanksha Salunkhe (86) complete a group that has shown flashes of promise but will need sustained breakthroughs at bigger PSA events to even enter the Olympic conversation.

In the men's field, Abhay Singh represents India's most credible hope. Currently ranked World No. 29 – the highest of his career – Abhay has quietly built a reputation as a player capable of unsettling higher-ranked opponents. His blend of athleticism, tactical awareness, high octane energy, and growing confidence has kept him firmly on an upward curve. If India is to produce a men's singles qualifier for Los Angeles, his name sits at the top of that list now.

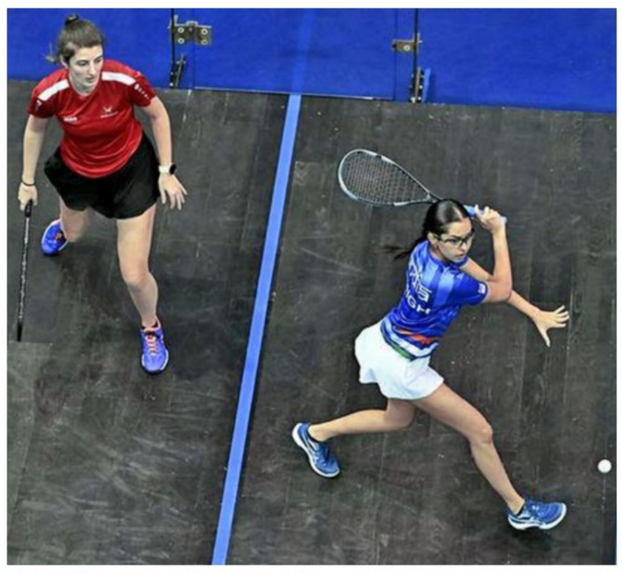
Further down the rankings, Ramit Tandon (41), Velavan Senthilkumar (44) and Veer Chotrani (51) provide the depth Indian squash has rarely seen. All three can keep Olympic dreams alive, provided they produce results at major PSA World Tour events.

Anahat knows she has to play in higher PSA World Tour events to stand a solid chance of making it to Los Angeles and she seemed very confident. "I think my main aim is just to get my ranking as high as possible. I'm definitely going to qualify for the Olympics. I don't want it to be like at the end that I'm not sure whether I'm going to get in or not. So, I want to make sure that it's quite clear for me at least in the last few months of it," she said.

The teenager remains far more mature than her age suggests when she remarked that her bigger objective is to improve her game by playing a bigger category of events.

"My main aim is just to improve my game as much as possible because even after I get into the Olympics, getting a medal is always in mind. I'm going to be able to play in some of the Platinum events and get a chance to play with the top players. It's not going to be about winning events. It's about getting as far as possible and learning a lot from it as well," she said.

The country's Olympic mission received a major boost when India clinched its maiden gold medal at the SDAT-Squash World Cup mixed team event, held in December at the Express Avenue Mall in Chennai.



High ceiling: Abhay, Velavan, Joshna and Anahat have raised expectations with their performances at the World Cup. R. RAGU & R. RAVINDRAN

THE GIST

- The World Cup provided India an excellent platform to demonstrate its growing prowess in squash
- Joshna termed the golden run in the tournament as "incredibly special"
- At the Asian Games later this year, the Indians will look to produce a record haul

Immense appeal

Unlike the traditional World Squash Championships, which has celebrated 46 editions till 2025 (46 in men's & 40 in women's), the World Cup is relatively new, having completed just five editions since its inception in June 1996. Unfortunately, the tournament hasn't been a regular fixture. Marketed as gender-equitable and modern, the mixed team format offers immense appeal and can get better provided it has a fixed calendar and prize money to sustain its momentum. For India, seeded second, the event provided an excellent platform to demonstrate the country's growing prowess in squash to a nascent urban audience at a shopping and entertainment complex.

Showing depth and class

Defeating fifth-seeded Egypt, known for its talented young players, and then top-seeded Hong Kong in the final showed India has both the depth and class to emerge as a future powerhouse.

India's head coach, Harinderpal Singh, highlighted the significance of the victory. "It's the first time we've won the World Cup. The matches were extremely high-pressure. Beating Egypt and then Hong Kong wasn't easy. Joshna's triumph in the opening match was crucial. Abhay, who played next, thrives when the team is ahead, and that initial lead sets the tone. Performing under such pressure for the team is never easy, but Joshna has been doing it for years," he said.

Joshna, reflecting on the team's triumph, called it one of the highlights of her career. "A few months back, I wasn't even sure I'd be playing. To compete at this level for my country and win gold is incredibly special. The whole team performed brilliantly all week," she said. Anahat on her part was ecstatic after the team's win.

"I played at a World Cup for the first time ever alongside my seniors. It was a great learning experience and I thank the Chennai crowd for the continuous support," she said. For Abhay, it was even more special. "An unbelievable evening. To do this in front of my city makes me speechless. I hope this inspires a lot of kids watching–discipline and hard work can take you very far," he said.

While the Olympics is still a few years away, recent performances at the Squash World Cup have demonstrated that Indian players can hold their own against the best in the world.

With the Asian Games on the horizon this September, where India is aiming to surpass its historic haul of five medals (two gold, one silver, and two bronze) there is a renewed sense of hope and belief. The momentum built at these events might well pave the way for an Indian presence at Los Angeles in 2028.

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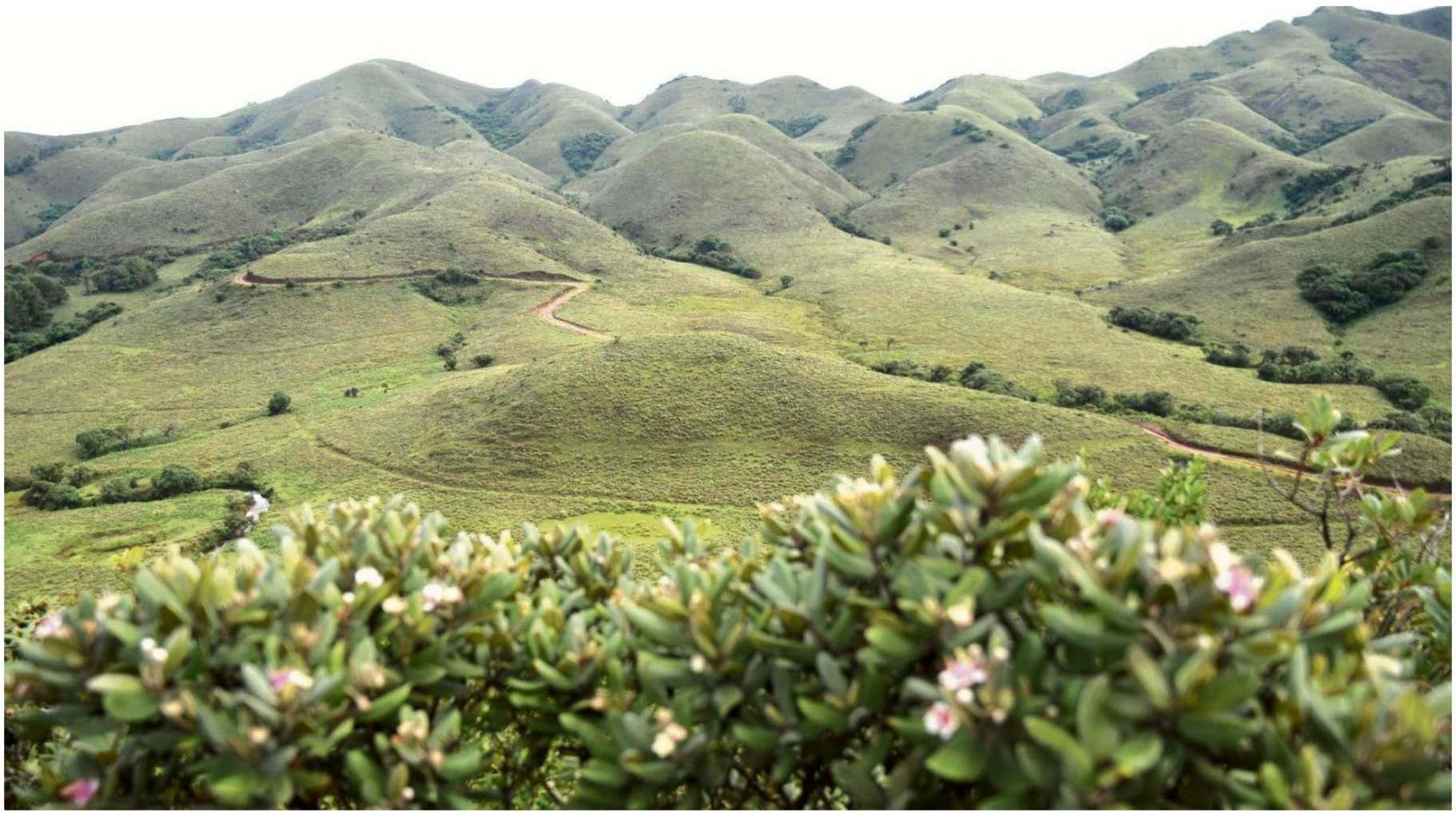


Grasslands and shola forest in the upper Nilgiris, a part of the Western Ghats. SATHYAMOORTHY M.

Not just forests: why grasslands also belong in national climate plans

Protecting a biome like grasslands cannot happen in isolation but must come about through goals shared by the various U.N. bodies; unfortunately, there are still debates ongoing about whether biodiversity and climate goals align and how institutions can build synergies

Sutirtha Lahiri

The United Nations has declared 2026 to be the 'International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists'.

In 2022, a group of scientists from institutions in Tanzania, Zambia, the U.K., the U.S., Germany and Canada wrote an open letter urging the parties of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) to broaden their goals to be inclusive of all biomes on earth, but especially grasslands and savannahs. Their letter, published in *Science*, asserted that even though savannahs are potentially better carbon sinks, forests have hogged the limelight in global climate negotiations. Unfortunately, three years since the letter was written, the UNFCCC climate summits have continued to fall short of addressing this key issue.

The UNFCCC COP30 climate talks took place over the course of 10 days in the city of Belém in Brazil, and it had a major focus on forests. Hosting the bulk of the Amazon River, Brazil had an opportunity to place forests at the centre of its agenda. Early on at the conference, the announcement of the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) was exciting to most attendees. With commitments of multi-million-dollar funds from different countries, the TFFF was established to fund countries to keep tropical forests intact.

COP30, which ended with a lack of any concrete roadmap to protect the climate, also signalled a glaring disparity in a global climate action agenda that has continued to favour forests alone. Much like forests, other major biomes the world over are also facing the consequences of climate change and biodiversity loss – and protecting them can also aid climate action.

"Everyone is facing the effects of climate change, but the desert people are facing some of the harshest effects," said Samantha Murray, an Ilka/Wongutha/Nyoongar indigenous person and the CEO of Indigenous Desert Alliance (IDA). "It is getting hotter, and it is getting harder to live here"

The IDA is a network of indigenous community rangers that works to protect and manage the vast desert grasslands that make up more than a third of Australia's landmass.

Just beginning

Grasslands are one of the most threatened ecosystems in the world. The biome has suffered rapid habitat loss due to agriculture, conversion to forests and plantations, the spread of invasive species, and the extraction of fossil fuels. In addition, many governments have suppressed indigenous and local land management techniques such as controlled fires and grazing, leaving forest land to burn during wildfires with greater intensity and to release more carbon into the atmosphere as forests degrade.

Today, the desert grasslands of Australia are reeling under the effects of dry spells and flash floods induced by climate change. These consequences are playing out in tandem with those of the buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*), an invasive species of grass that hasn't only replaced native grass but which also burns with higher intensity.

Organisations like the IDA have been at the forefront of bringing more attention to the desert grasslands of Australia. Stewarded by indigenous communities, the IDA has been working on the ground to protect their grasslands through culturally appropriate burning regimes, round-the-clock monitoring by indigenous rangers, and invasive species management.

This said, the fight to preserve grasslands has just begun.

"I still think that in my lifetime, there won't be a chance for me to walk up to someone in Melbourne and ask them about climate change, for them to say, 'yes, it is affecting the deserts of our country'," Samatha said, further highlighting that the grasslands are often seen as nothing more than empty spaces and is thus also insufficiently funded by the government.

No cerrado, no Amazon

The same situation in Australia is echoed around the world. Brazil is home to one of the world's most biodiverse savannahs, called the cerrado. Home to eight of the 12 water systems of Brazil, including major river systems like the Sao Francisco and the Tocantins, the cerrado is stressed; in fact the cerrado grasslands face twice as much range loss due to human activities as well as climate change compared to the Amazon rainforests in the country.

Of late, small-scale efforts have been bringing forth the importance of grasslands at the COP summits. Scientists, members of indigenous and local communities, and policymakers have been coming together to advocate for this imperilled biome. At the COP30 itself, big billboards at the central hall of the venue; public demonstrations by indigenous communities living in the cerrado; and special youth groups formed by the Brazilian ministry with representatives from each of the six biomes in the country all brought issues related to grasslands to the participants' attention, even if these efforts were scattered.

Several side events also highlighted grasslands. In one event called 'Cerrado e Amazonia; Conectados Pelas Aguas', Dandara Tonantzin, a federal congresswoman from the state of Minas Gerais in Brazil and coordinator of the Cerrado Defense Group of the Environmental Parliamentary Front, highlighted the crucial role of the cerrado grasslands. In her words: "The Cerrado and the Amazon are two biomes, and brothers, that are connected ecologically. It is important to understand that without the cerrado, there is no Amazon."

A social justice issue

The cerrado today faces multiple pressures from growing agricultural expansion, mining, fire suppression, disenfranchisement of communities' rights to their land, and public policies that protect agribusiness over ecosystems. In addition, 70% of Brazil's agricultural toxic wastes are dumped in this biome,

Recognising the importance of grasslands, valuing their potential for carbon sequestration, integrating grassland protection in countrywide NDCs, while giving local communities the rights to their land, are the first steps in mainstreaming the protection of grasslands

endangering the ecology as well as the people that live there.

"We can still choose another path. First, by officially recognising territorial rights and secure demarcations for Indigenous peoples and Quilombolas (Afro-descendent communities in Brazil), Dandara said, highlighting that protecting the cerrado is also a social justice issue. "We need to ensure the implementation of inclusive public policies that integrate the participation of traditional communities in the management of natural resources."

Bridging these narratives from the side events to the negotiating rooms of the COP is a long road. By design, the UNFCCC COP focuses almost exclusively on conversations around managing carbon, while biodiversity and land degradation largely remain the talking points for the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD). To their credit, however, the CBD and the CCD have made better efforts to recognise grasslands in their programmes.

For example, at the UNCCD COP16 conference in Saudi Arabia, there were efforts to highlight the importance of grasslands and rangelands in achieving land degradation neutrality. Through resolution L15, the UNCCD COP officially recognised that rangelands are complex socio-ecological systems and called on its parties to "prioritise policies and investments" and to "improve tenure security in rangelands".

Building bridges

Protecting a biome like grasslands can't happen in isolation but must come about through goals shared by the various U.N. bodies. Unfortunately, there are still debates ongoing about whether biodiversity and climate goals align and how institutions can build synergies. In 1992, the formation of the three Rio Conventions marked a historic first step in bridging the gap between the UNCBD, the UNFCCC, and the UNCCD – and from there a mechanism to cooperate on goals to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation together.

COP30 also saw the active participation of organisations such as the World Wide Fund for Nature and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature on the matter of these overlooked biomes. In a report jointly released during the conference, titled 'Protecting the overlooked carbon sink', authors from these organisations highlighted a growing need to integrate grasslands in climate negotiations. In its policy recommendation, the report stated that grasslands should be considered in "an integrated manner across all three Rio Conventions to break silos and maximise effectiveness". The report also stated that grasslands must be recognised in the country-specific nationally determined contributions (NDCs), which are national climate action plans that outline a country's commitment to reducing emissions under the Paris Agreement.

Small step for India

Laying bridges between the U.N. bodies is in fact the best way to protect the world's grasslands, and a similar exercise between various branches of the Indian government could benefit the country's grasslands as well. According to a white paper released by the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru, at the UNFCCC COP16 in Saudi Arabia, grasslands in India come under the purview of 18 Ministries, each with competing interests and policy goals. While the Union Environment Ministry considers grasslands for afforestation purposes, say, the Ministry of Rural Development publishes the "wasteland atlas of India" that often includes grasslands the atlas deems available for conversion to other uses.

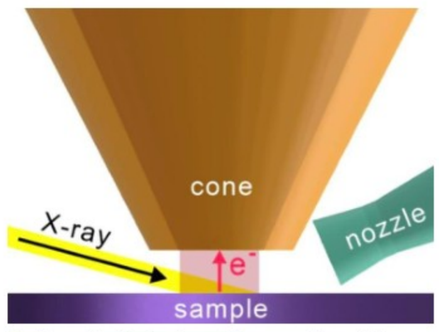
If the governing bodies are unified from the national to the multilateral levels, however, the benefits could trickle down through mechanisms such as the country-specific NDCs. In fact, one of India's eight NDCs is "to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030." By recognising grasslands as a crucial carbon sink, the Indian government can easily encompass this biome, move away from forest-focused carbon sequestration schemes, and give its own climate mitigation efforts a boost.

In a similar vein, a policy brief shared by a group of researchers from Brazil urged the UNFCCC to "adopt the Ecosystem-Based Approach as an immediate pathway" to conserve and sustainably manage "open ecosystems as adaptation actions, enabling their inclusion in Brazil's NDCs".

Recognising the importance of grasslands as unique ecosystems worthy of attention, valuing their potential for carbon sequestration and ecosystem services, integrating grassland protection in countrywide NDCs, all while giving local communities the rights to their land and management practices – these are essential first steps in mainstreaming the protection and sustenance of grasslands worldwide. Creating bridges between the relevant U.N. bodies such that countries can develop unified policies is also crucial.

All these goals can be achieved if the parties to the U.N. uphold the values of multilateralism and prioritise science and civil society over the fossil fuel and agrobusiness lobbies.

(Sutirtha Lahiri is a PhD student in conservation science and the Interdisciplinary Center for the study of Global Change (ICGC) Scholar at the University of Minnesota. sutirtha1996@gmail.com)



A schematic illustration of the experimental technique. CAI ET AL., PHOTO SCIENCE, 2025

New way to study surfaces brings 'real world' pressure into the lab

Vasudevan Mukunth

To understand how materials work, whether a metal in a car's catalytic converter or the substances in a battery, scientists need to look at their surfaces at the atomic level.

One of the best tools for this is X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS). A device shoots X-rays at a material and measures the properties of electrons that bounce off, revealing to researchers exactly what elements are present and how they're bonding.

The problem is that there's a major catch. XPS usually requires a vacuum (a space with no air). If there are gas molecules around, they block the electrons before they reach the detector. This creates a problem called the pressure gap'.

While XPS works great in a vacuum, real-world chemical reactions usually happen under atmospheric pressure, about 1 atm. Studying a catalyst in a vacuum is a bit like trying to study how a fish swims by looking at it on dry land: you aren't seeing its natural behaviour.

Currently, to bridge this gap, scientists often have to travel to large, stadium-sized facilities called synchrotrons.

If the technology proves reliable, scientists could study surface chemistry at realistic pressures in their own labs, rather than applying for time at synchrotron facilities

Now, a team of researchers from ShanghaiTech University and other institutions has published a paper in *Photon Science* proposing a solution that could fit in a standard laboratory.

The researchers modified a standard laboratory XPS machine to handle high pressures. Their innovation was a piece of engineering usually associated with rocket engines: a de Laval nozzle.

A de Laval nozzle is a tube that pinches in the middle and flares out at the end. This shape accelerates gas flowing through it to supersonic speeds. In the study, the researchers used the nozzle to shoot a focused jet of gas directly at the sample surface.

According to the paper, the localised pressure creates a small zone up to 1 atm right on the sample's surface. Because the gas is moving so fast and is focused, the pressure drops off rapidly just a few millimeters away, keeping the rest of the machine in a vacuum, sparing the detectors.

The team used computer simulations and a custom pressure sensor to verify the pressure at the sample surface actually reached 1 atm.

To test the system, the researchers examined a sample of platinum while spraying it with nitrogen gas.

In a standard XPS machine, filling the chamber with this much gas would make it impossible to see the sample. But the researchers reported their gas jet created a layer of high pressure only about 20μm thick, thin enough to also allow the electrons from the platinum to still reach the detector.

According to the study, the team successfully detected signals from both the nitrogen gas and the platinum surface at pressures up to 1 atm. They also found that as the pressure increased, the signal from the surface got fainter.

If the technology proves reliable, scientists could study surface chemistry at realistic pressures in their own labs, rather than applying for time at synchrotron facilities. They could also better understand how catalysts break down pollutants or how rust forms in real time, potentially leading to more efficient industrial processes.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Safari ban drives tourists to BBP

Safari operations in popular tiger reserves were halted following a series of tiger attacks in the H.D. Kote and Sargur regions

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

The ban on safari at popular destinations Kabini, Nagarhole, and Bandipur has benefitted the Bannerughatta Biological Park (BBP), which saw record numbers during the recently concluded holiday season.

Safari operations in the popular tiger reserves were halted following a series of tiger attacks in the H.D. Kote and Sargur regions.

According to data shared by Surya Sen A.V., Deputy Conservator of Forests and executive director, Bannerughatta Biological Park, the fortnight between December 20, 2025, and January 5, 2026, saw record footfall and safari visitors. This period witnessed 1,95,763 total footfall, of which 1,06,215 were safari visitors and 89,548 visitors to the zoo. December 27 saw a whopping 18,425 take the safari - the highest in the period.

In the same period last year (2024-2025), the total footfall stood at 1,89,309, of which 96,527 were visitors to the zoo and 92,782 took the safari. During the same period the years before (2023-2024 and 2022-2023), these numbers stood at 1,66,330 footfall, 79,754 zoo visitors and 86,576 safari users, and 1,60,590 footfall, 89,283 zoo visitors and 71,307 safari users respectively.

This came even as the BBP had its own share of hiccups in 2025. The park resumed safari operations after a temporary suspension in the backdrop of a second leopard attack during a safari in a matter of four months.

On November 13, 2025, a 56-year-old woman who was taking the non-AC bus safari at the BBP was injured after a leopard clawed her. The woman sustained a minor injury to her hand when the leopard accidentally clawed her while attempting to climb onto the bus. Non-AC bus safaris were suspended temporarily following the incident and resumed after additional safety measures, including no-gap mesh for the bus windows.

Earlier, in August, a 12-year-old boy was clawed by a leopard at the BBP while travelling in a safari bus when he had placed his hand in an accessible place near a window. Following the incident, Minister for Forest, Ecology, and Environment Eshwar Khandre had instructed officials to install mesh and designated photography holes on the windows of all safari vehicles.

Mr. Sen said since the incident, the leopard in question was not allowed to roam in the open during the safari.

According to the park, the safari landscape in the park is a representation of the adjoining dry and moist deciduous forests of the Bannerghatta National Park, which is home to a wide variety of fauna which are often spotted within safari range.

The Bannerughatta Biological Park saw record footfall and safari visitors between December 20, 2025, and January 5, 2026. K. MURALI KUMAR

Bannerughatta calling

	Dec. 20, 2025 to Jan. 5, 2026	Dec. 20, 2024 to Jan. 5, 2025	Dec. 20, 2023 to Jan. 5, 2024	Dec. 20, 2022 to Jan. 5, 2023
Zoo Visitors	89,548	96,527	79,754	89,283
Safari Visitors	1,06,215	92,782	86,576	71,307
Total	1,95,763	1,89,309	1,66,330	1,60,590

BBP resumed safari operations after a temporary suspension following a second leopard attack during a safari in a matter of four months

Penang delegation meets Priyank Kharge

BENGALURU: A high-level delegation led by Jagdeep Singh Deo, Deputy Chief Minister of the island state of Penang, Malaysia, held a meeting with IT and BT Minister of Karnataka Priyank Kharge on Tuesday.

Among other things, the discussions included academic and industry partnerships for chip design and advanced engineering.

Traffic police to crack down on high-beam, coloured lights from today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two-wheeler and four-wheeler riders in the city have been cautioned against using high-intensity lights and unauthorised additional lamps, as the Bengaluru Traffic Police will launch a special enforcement drive from January 7 to 13.

According to the police, several motorists have been fitting vehicles with red, yellow and blue coloured lights and excessively bright headlights, causing inconvenience to other road users and increasing the risk of accidents.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Bengaluru, Karthik Reddy has directed traffic police to conduct strict checks, register cases against violators and impose penalties during the drive.

Visvesvaraya Technological University
(State University of Government of Karnataka Established as per the VTU Act, 1994)
Jnana Sangama', Belagavi - 590 018, Karnataka State
Phone:(0831) 2405468 Fax:(0831)2405467

Ref.No.VTU/PS/2025-26/788 Date: 05.01.2026

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Twenty-Fifth Annual Convocation (Part-II) to award Post Graduate and Research Degrees of VTU – reg.

******

It is hereby informed that **the Twenty-fifth Annual Convocation (Part-II) to award Post Graduate and Research Degrees of VTU, is scheduled to be held on Monday, 2nd February 2026, at 11-00 a.m., in the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium, "Jnana Sangama" Campus of VTU, Belagavi.** The awardees of the above degree are hereby cordially invited to attend the Convocation.

In this Convocation Ceremony, the Degrees will be awarded only to the Gold Medalists and Rank Holders of 2024-2025 batch of Post Graduate Programmes and to the candidates eligible for the award of Ph.D Degree.

All candidates are required to note the following:

The candidates shall :

* Be present in the Auditorium with neat white dress as mentioned in the University Website
* Occupy the seats in the Auditorium at least half an hour earlier to the commencement of Convocation Ceremony
* Candidates are advised not to attend the Convocation Ceremony if symptoms of fever / cold / cough
* Standup when the Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Chancellor and other dignitaries enters the hall and remain so until they occupy the chairs
* Maintain silence and discipline throughout the Ceremony
* Switch off mobile phone in the premises
* Not to leave their position till the dignitaries leaves the hall after the Ceremony is over
* Follow the instructions issued by the Registrar(Evaluation) regarding Registration and other protocols of Convocation

Other candidates, who wish to collect the Degree Certificates personally, can collect the same from the Office of the Registrar (Evaluation) the next working day, on **2nd February 2026**, during the office hours on producing valid identity card issued by the college. The certificates of the rest of the candidates will be sent to the concerned colleges after the Convocation.

By order
(**Dr. Prasad B.Rampure**)
Registrar

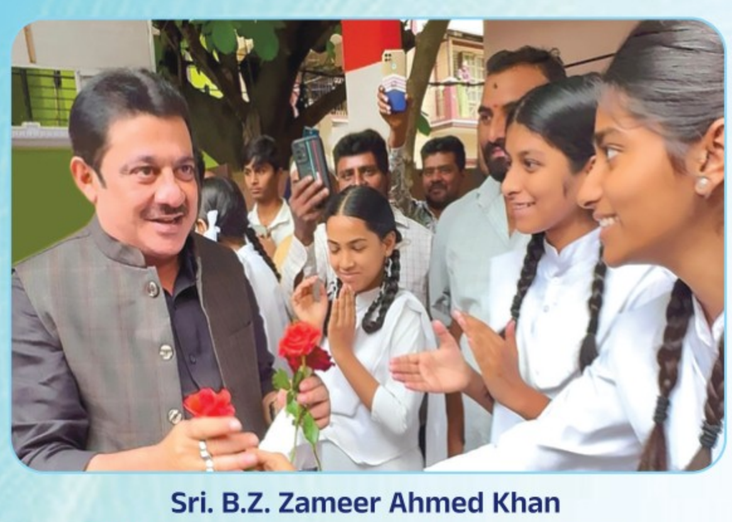
Sri SIDDARAMAIAH
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Minority Welfare Department

Directorate of Minorities

COMMENCEMENT OF ADMISSIONS TO CLASS VI IN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27 UNDER THE DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES

Sri D.K. SHIVAKUMAR
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister



Sri. B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan
Hon'ble Minister for Housing, Waqf and Minority Welfare
Interacting with the children.

Our Residential School... Our Future's Strong Foundation...

Eligibility Criteria to submit Applications

- Students must be studying / promoted in 5th Std. Marks Cards to be submitted during examining the records.
- Must be a permanent Resident of Karnataka State.
- Annual income to be within Rs.2.5 lakhs

Details of Tentative Seats Availablity

Sl. No.	Residential School Name and type of Syllabus	No. of Schools	Total No. of Admissions sanctioned for 6th Standard
1.	Morarji Desai Residential School (State Syllabus)	140	10460
2.	Dr|| A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Residential School **(C.B.S.E Syllabus)**	29	1830
3.	Government Muslim Residential School (State Syllabus)	04	260
	Total	**173**	**12550**

Salient Features of Residential Schools

1. 75% Reservation for Minorites Communities such as Muslims, Christian, Buddhism, Jain, Sikh and Parsi Community Students.
2. 25% Reservation for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward class students.
3. 50% Reservation for Girls.
4. Free and quality Residential education for Students.
5. Each district will have One CBSE Syllabus exquisite School.
6. Immediate preparation from renowned Institutes for Competitive Exams.
7. Free Text Books, Stationary Items, Uniform, Shoes & Socks, Quality Boarding facilities for Students.
8. Spoken English Course, Leadership Training, JEE/NEET, CLAT tuitions, Karate Training for Girls, Life Skills Training, etc., will be provided

Tentative scheduled dates for Admission Process in Residential Schools

1.	Date of Submission of Applications for Students is from	07.01.2026
2.	Last date notified for submission of Applications	15.02.2026
3.	Tentative Date for conducting Written Test (Sunday)	29.03.2026
4.	Notification of Results	20.04.2026

Portal address for submitting online applications **https://sevasindhuservices.karnataka.gov.in**
Notification, School details and for more Information please visit Department's website **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**

It is the fundamental duty of every Indians to protect public property and to relcon tom violence

A BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of deaths in Manipur pick-up van accident

4 Four persons, including three women, were killed after a pick-up van carrying 30-40 passengers fell into a gorge in Manipur's Churachandpur district. The vehicle, hired for a wedding, met with an accident near the remote Ngaljang village around noon. PTI

Number of people killed in Iran's economic protests

35 At least 35 people have been killed in violence linked to ongoing economic protests across Iran, according to a U.S.-based rights group. The toll includes 29 protesters, four children and two security personnel. PTI

Value of international forex fraud racket busted in Maharashtra

200 In ₹ crore. Maharashtra Police busted an international online fraud syndicate that cheated hundreds of victims of over ₹200 crore through fake forex and gold trading schemes. Seven have been arrested. PTI

Quantity of charas seized from inter-State drug supplier

2.5 In kilograms. Delhi Police arrested a 39-year-old man for allegedly supplying charas from Himachal Pradesh to multiple States, including Delhi, Mumbai and Goa. The accused reportedly used multiple travel tactics to evade law enforcement. PTI

Death toll in Siau Island floods in Indonesia

16 At least 16 people were killed after torrential rains triggered a flash flood on Indonesia's Siau island, north of Sulawesi. A river inundated four towns, injuring 22 people and displacing nearly 700 residents. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Rethinking India's skilling outcomes

What prevents skilling from becoming a first-choice pathway for youth? Why has formal vocational training reached only a small share of the workforce? What limits industry participation in public skilling programmes? Why do Sector Skill Councils lack credibility with employers?

EXPLAINER

Pravesh Dudani

The story so far:

Over the last decade, India has built one of the largest skilling ecosystems in the world. Between 2015 and 2025, India's flagship skilling programme, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, has trained and certified around 1.40 crore candidates. Yet skilling has not become a first-choice pathway for most young Indians. Employability outcomes remain uneven, and Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data show that wage gains from vocational training are modest and inconsistent, particularly in informal employment, where most workers are absorbed, offering limited recognition for certified skills and little visible improvement in quality of life.

Why does skilling still fail to inspire aspiration?

India's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) stands at 28%, but the National Education Policy 2020 aims to raise it to 50% by 2035. This cannot be done just by expanding traditional education; it must be integrated into higher education pathways in a way that makes it easier for people to learn new skills.

Despite years of investment, only about 4.1% of India's workforce has received formal vocational training, barely improving from about 2% a decade ago (PLFS; World Bank). In contrast, across OECD countries, about 44% of upper-secondary learners are enrolled in vocational programmes, rising to around 70% in countries such as Austria, the Czech Republic, Finland, the Netherlands, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

The India Skills Report 2025 shows that post-degree skilling by graduates is not a mainstream or high-participation behaviour in India. If skilling is to scale meaningfully, it must travel through and alongside formal education.

GETTY IMAGES

How can industry contribute meaningfully?

Industry is the single largest beneficiary of effective skilling and trained manpower. According to various industry reports, high attrition, long onboarding cycles, and productivity losses impose real costs, with attrition rates of 30-40% common across retail, logistics, hospitality, and manufacturing alone.

Yet, there is still not much participation from the industry. Most employers do not use public skilling certifications as hiring benchmarks; instead, they use internal training, referrals, or private platforms (NITI Aayog; World Bank). The National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) has increased participation, but its effects are still unequal, particularly among bigger companies.

Industry is neither incentivised nor obligated to meaningfully contribute to relevant curriculum development, certification standards, or assessment rigour at scale. As long as skilling remains something industry consumes rather than co-designs, it will lag labour-market reality.

Why do Sector Skill Councils fail?

The most serious structural failure in India's skilling ecosystem lies with the Sector Skill Councils (SSCs).

SSCs were created with a clear mandate: to act as industry-facing institutions that define standards, ensure relevance, and anchor employability. In effect, they were meant to own the skilling value chain – from identifying industry demand to certifying job readiness. That mandate has not been fulfilled.

Today, responsibility is fragmented: training is delivered by one entity, assessment by another, certification by SSCs, and placement by someone else – if at all. Unlike higher education or technical institutions such as polytechnic diploma colleges, where reputational risk enforces accountability, the skilling system diffuses responsibility without consequence.

This fragmentation has eroded trust. Employer surveys frequently indicate that SSC credentials have limited signalling value compared to degrees or prior work experience. Standards exist, but employers do not reliably hire against them. Industry-led certification models illustrate what is missing. Certifications from AWS, Google Cloud, or Microsoft work because the certifier's credibility is at stake. Assessments are fair and graded, not binary, and employers know what a certified candidate can do.

SSCs were meant to play this role at a national scale. Instead, they have largely limited themselves to standards creation, without owning outcomes. Until SSCs are held accountable for employability, certification will remain symbolic rather than economic.

The ongoing overhaul of standard-setting bodies must confront this directly.

How can skilling drive sustained economic growth?

India's skilling challenge is a failure of accountability, not of intent or government funding.

Expanding NAPS and deepening industry integration can become one of the fastest levers to improve job readiness at scale by pushing skilling into the workplace. Initiatives like PM-SETU, the central scheme for modernisation of ITIs, point towards stronger execution models where industry ownership and accountability are built into programme design.

When skills are embedded in degrees, when industry is treated as a co-owner, and when SSCs are made answerable for placement outcomes, skilling move from fragmented welfare intervention to a pillar of national economic empowerment.

That shift is not just about jobs. It is about the dignity of labour, productivity, and India's ability to convert its demographic strength into sustained national growth.

Pravesh Dudani is the Founder & Chancellor of Medhavi Skills University and an Advisor to NSDC

THE GIST

- Despite PMKVY training around 1.40 crore candidates, employability outcomes remain uneven, wage gains are modest and inconsistent, and informal employment offers limited recognition for certified skills and little visible improvement in quality of life.
- Limited industry participation, uneven NAPS outcomes, and the structural failure of Sector Skill Councils — fragmented responsibility, weak signalling value of certifications, and lack of accountability for employability — have reduced skilling to a fragmented welfare intervention rather than a driver of sustained economic growth.

What are biomaterials and how do they work?

How can indigenous biomaterials reduce dependence on fossil-based imports?

Shambhavi Naik

The story so far:

As countries look to shift to cleaner processes to manufacture consumer products, be it plastics or textiles, biomaterials will become the new frontier of materials engineering.

What are biomaterials?

Biomaterials are materials derived wholly or partly from biological sources, or engineered using biological processes, that are designed to replace or interact with conventional materials. They are increasingly used across sectors such as packaging, textiles, construction, and healthcare. Biomaterials can be broadly categorised into three types: drop-in biomaterials, which are chemically identical to petroleum-based materials and can be used in existing manufacturing systems (such as bio-PET); drop-out biomaterials, which are chemically different and require new processing or end-of-life systems (such as polylactic acid or PLA); and novel biomaterials, which offer new properties not found in conventional materials, such as self-healing materials, bioactive implants, and advanced composites.

Why does India need biomaterials?

For India, biomaterials address multiple goals, including environmental sustainability, industrial growth, revenue generation, and supporting farmer livelihoods through a single pathway. Indigenous biomaterials biomanufacturing can reduce India's heavy dependence on fossil-based imports for plastics, chemicals, and materials. It would also enable diversified value for agricultural feedstocks and residues, offering farmers new income streams beyond food markets. As global regulations and consumer preferences shift toward low-carbon and circular products, biomaterials position the Indian industry to remain competitive in export markets. Biomaterials also support domestic policy goals around waste reduction, such as the ban on single-use plastics and climate action goals.

Where does India stand today?

India's biomaterials sector, spanning bioplastics, biopolymers, and bio-derived materials, is rapidly emerging as a strategic industrial and sustainability opportunity, with the bioplastics market alone valued at around $500 million in 2024 and forecast to grow strongly through the decade. Balrampur Chini Mills planned PLA plant investment in Uttar Pradesh is one of the biggest investments in India. Domestic innovation includes startups like Phool.co, converting temple flower waste into biomaterials and Praj Industries, who have their own demonstration-level bioplastics plant in progress. Although India has a rich agricultural base, in some sectors, there is foreign dependence for the technologies required for the transformation of feedstocks into market-ready final products.

What is the way forward?

India has an advantage in building a biomaterials industry, but some issues would need to be addressed first. If feedstocks also do not scale with increased demand, there could be feedstock competition with food sources. Similarly, aggressive agricultural practices could lead to water stress and soil deterioration. Further, weak waste-management and composting infrastructure could undermine environmental benefits. Fragmented policy coordination across agriculture, environment, and industry may slow adoption, and failure to move quickly could leave India dependent on imports as other countries scale faster.

To capitalise on this sector, policy actions include scaling biomanufacturing infrastructure (especially fermentation and polymerisation capacity), improving feedstock productivity for crops such as sugarcane, maize, and agricultural residues using emerging technologies, and investing in R&D and standards to develop both drop-in and novel biomaterials.

Clear regulatory definitions, labelling norms, and end-of-life pathways (recycling or industrial composting) are essential to build consumer and industry confidence.

Government procurement, time-bound incentives under frameworks, and support for pilot plants and shared facilities can help de-risk early investments.

Shambhavi Naik is chairperson, Takshashila Institution's Health & Life Sciences Policy

THE GIST

- Biomaterials derived from biological sources are increasingly used across sectors and can reduce dependence on fossil-based imports while supporting environmental sustainability, industrial growth, and farmer livelihoods.
- India's biomaterials sector is emerging as a strategic opportunity, but scaling biomanufacturing infrastructure, feedstocks, waste-management systems, and policy coordination is essential to remain competitive as other countries scale faster.

UDD issues final notification amending setback rules

As per revised norms, buildings on plots up to 60 sq. m have to leave a setback of 0.75 m on the front, 0.6 m on any one side

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Urban Development Department (UDD) on Monday issued a final notification amending setback norms for buildings built on plots of up to 4,000 sq. m in Bengaluru. The final notification introduces staggered setbacks for sites up to 250 sq. m, depending on the size of the plot, which was earlier being calculated as a percentage of the plot depth and width.

As per the revised norms, buildings on plots up to 60 sq. m (20X30 sites) have to leave a setback of 0.75 m in the front and 0.6 m on any one side. However, the setback for the rear side has been dropped for plots up to 60 sq. m.

Buildings on plots above 60 sq. m up to 150 sq. m (30X40 and 30X50 sites) have to leave a setback of 0.9 m in the front, 0.7 m in the rear, and 0.7 m on any one side. For the buildings on plots above 150 sq. m and up to 250 sq. m, the front side should have a setback of 1 m, the rear side should have 0.80 m, and the other sides should have 0.80 m each.

In August last year, the UDD had amended setback norms to accommodate stilt parking and introduced a calibrated setback system for buildings above the height of 12 m. FILE PHOTO

For plots above 250 sq. m and up to 4,000 sq. m, setbacks are linked to plot dimensions. The front setback must be 12% of the site depth, the rear setback 8% of the site depth, and the side setbacks 8% of the site width on both sides. For plots above 4,000 sq. m, a minimum setback of 5 m on all sides has been mandated. The notification notes that for plots up to 250 sq. m, the maximum permissible building height is 12.0 m, excluding the stilt floor.

Further, an open staircase can be allowed in the setback area in a plot size of up to 750 sq m. The setback area shall not be paved or covered by any hard surface which prevents percolation of rainwater, as far as possible.

In August last year, the UDD had amended setback norms to accommodate stilt parking and introduced a calibrated setback system for buildings above the height of 12 m. The final notification provides for vehicle parking in the basement or at any level of the upper floors, including the terrace area, by using lifts, computerised, mechanised, or hydraulic equipment, and lays down rules for the same.

The mechanical equipment for the same shall be placed on the basement floor only, which should have access via a staircase as well.

The builders have to ensure provision for manual operation as well to tackle emergencies.

Revised setback rules — For plot area up to **4000 sq. m**

Site area (in Sq.m)	Front side	Rear side	Left and right side
Up to 60	0.75	none	0.60 m on any one side
Above 60 up to 150	0.90	0.70	0.70 m on any one side
Above 150 up to 250	1.0	0.80	0.80 on both sides
Above 250 up to 4000	12% of the depth of site	8% of the depth of site	8% of the width of the site on each side

For plot area above 4000 sq. m minimum setback if 5.0m on all sides shall be insisted

Garbage blackspots return in southeast Bengaluru as collection vehicles arrive late

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Parts of southeast Bengaluru, including Adugodi, Ejipura, and Koramangala, are again witnessing a rise in garbage blackspots, as waste collection vehicles are reportedly arriving two to three hours late.

However, according to local residents, officials have continued tracking households and levying fines on litterbugs in these areas. Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) had earlier stated that fines were being collected only in localities where garbage collection vehicles were operating regularly.

Krithi Rao, who commutes to central Bengaluru from Koramangala, noted that blackspots are growing along the Srinivagilu Main Road despite the presence of a transfer station nearby. "The timings of the waste collection vehicle are unpredictable, as they differ every day and are often delayed by more than an hour. On some days, I have had to store four to five bags of waste at home due to the irregular schedule," she said.

Several localities across Ejipura are struggling to dispose of garbage as waste collection vehicles arrive late every day. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

While irregular timings remain a concern in Koramangala, several localities across Ejipura are struggling to dispose of garbage as waste collection vehicles reportedly arrive late every day. "It comes at 11.30 a.m., when most of us are out. There are many college students and techies living here who are finding it difficult to dispose of garbage," said a resident who did not wish to be named. "In addition, they (civic officials) had deployed marshals at night, leading to garbage piling up at homes. Sometimes my flatmate is at home at 11.30 a.m. when the vehicle arrives; otherwise, we are forced to throw it out," he said.

A visit to the area early in the morning showed multiple blackspots along Ejipura Main Road. Residents said the issue has become perennial and remains unresolved, despite being brought to the attention of BSWML officials multiple times in the past.

Despite this, civic body officials have continued collecting fines from litterbugs. When asked about the delays, an official involved in collecting fines said that ongoing drain works in the area were causing timing disruptions.

However, the delays have persisted for over two months. Locals have also alleged that the waste collection kiosk installed in the area around three months ago remains non-operational for most of the day.

It is employer's responsibility to ensure the driver possesses valid licence: High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka ruled that it is the responsibility of the employer to ensure that his driver holds a valid and effective driving licence, and failure to do so would constitute a clear breach of insurance policy conditions absolving the insurer of liability

Justice K. Manmadha Rao made these observations while upholding an order of a civil court in Mangaluru in awarding compensation of ₹5.38 lakh with 12% interest per annum under the Workmen Compensation Act, to the legal heirs of a school bus driver, who had died in 2008 after the bus fell into the Phalguni River near Mangaluru. A total of 11 persons, including seven children, had died in the accident.

Appeal

The head master of Balmy Primary School, Thenkulipady, Mangaluru taluk in Dakshina Kannada district, had filed an appeal against the award passed by the civil court in 2015 in favour of Mariyamma, wife of the deceased driver, Badruddin, and her two minor children.

The insurance company, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, had declined to pay compensation under the WC Act while contending that Badruddin was driving the bus, owned by the school, on the date of the accident, August 14, 2008, even though his driving licence expired on June 17, 2008.

The insurance company had claimed that the compensation under the WC Act had to be paid by the employee as the school's head master, in whose name the bus was registered, was negligent in not ensuring the renewal of driving licence of the driver and hence violated the condition of insurance, it said.

Apex court order

The insurance company had relied on the 2020 judgement of the apex court, in the case of Beli Ram vs Rajendra Kumar and others, which had said that ensuring that the driver possesses a valid driving licence and it is renewed timely is part of the care to be taken by the employer to protect the interest of his employee, the driver under the Workmen Compensation Act.

Passport Office receives bomb threat email; turns out to be hoax

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Passport Office on Lalbagh Road received a bomb threat via email, triggering a security alert on Tuesday. However, it turned out to be a hoax, the police said after conducting thorough inspection of the premises.

Personnel from the bomb disposal squad and police teams carried out a thorough inspection of the premises and surrounding areas. Officials from S.R. Nagar and Wilson Garden police stations, along with an anti-sabotage squad, conducted detailed checks as part of precautionary measures.

Security tightened

Police sources said that no suspicious objects were found during the preliminary search. Security in and around the Passport Office has been tightened.

Further investigation has been launched to trace the source of the email and identify the person behind the hoax bomb threat.

The High Court of Karnataka in Dharwad, district courts in Mysuru, Gadag, and Bagalkot and the Tahsildar office at Sedam received similar bomb threats emails, all of which turned out to be a hoax.

From Page One

Maths paper of II PU prep exam leaks

PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE

Chandrappa S. Gundupalli, Deputy Director of Pre-University Education in Shivamogga, told *The Hindu* that he learnt about the alleged leak of the question paper when he visited the colleges earlier in the day. He received information that a copy of the question paper, meant for the students of Shivamogga, was circulated through WhatsApp in Tumakuru district.

"As per our knowledge, the question paper has not been leaked in Shivamogga. However, the paper meant for the students of our district (with a specific code printed on it) was found being circulated in Tumakuru, ahead of the examination. The question paper in the preparatory examination is the same for the entire State," he said.

The officer, as per the instructions from senior officers of the department, filed a complaint with the Kote Police in Shivamogga city.

"The preparatory examination began at 10.30 am and the question paper was leaked in Shivamogga at around 11.20 am. The officials have been instructed to register a case in this regard. In addition, a departmental inquiry will also be conducted. Appropriate action will be taken against the guilty, " said Bharath.S., Director, Department of School Education and Literacy (Pre-University).

The Department of School Education has planned two preparatory examinations for II PU students. The first preparatory began on January 2, 2026. Normally, the question papers for the preparatory examination are sent to the nodal centres well in advance.

Taking to the streets

Raising voices: Members of Bheem Praja Sangha staging a protest, demanding the immediate repeal of the Buddhist Temple Act, 1949, at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Tuesday. ALLEN EGENUSE J

Domestic help, husband held on theft charges

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sadashivanagar police have arrested a 19-year-old domestic help and her husband for stealing valuables worth ₹1.37 crore from a businessman's residence where she was working.

The accused have been identified as Hajira Begum, 19, and her husband Shabbir Hussain, 23, both natives of Assam.

According to the police, Hajira was employed as a domestic help at the businessman's house. Taking advantage of the family's absence during New Year celebrations, she allegedly stole valuables with the help of her husband. The stolen items included 787.66 gm of gold ornaments, 291 gm of silver ornaments and seven wrist watches, collectively valued at ₹1.37 crore.

The stolen items included 787.66 gm of gold ornaments, 291 gm of silver ornaments and seven wrist watches, collectively valued at ₹1.37 crore

The theft reportedly occurred while the businessman and his family were away from the city. Police said the stolen articles were recovered from the possession of the accused. Both were remanded in judicial custody.

House break-in, theft

In a separate incident, Vidyaranyapura police have arrested four persons for house break-in and theft involving valuables worth ₹1.03 crore.

According to the police, the theft occurred while the homeowner and his family were traveling to Maharashtra. Investigations revealed that the accused included the car driver and two domestic helps, who allegedly handed over the house keys to two accomplices to carry out the theft.

From the accused, police recovered 550 gm of gold ornaments, 4 kg of silver articles, ₹4 lakh in cash, and seized a two-wheeler used in the committing the crime.

Four held on theft charges, 60 bikes worth ₹50L recovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The K.R. Puram police have dismantled an inter-State bike-lifting gang and arrested four persons, recovering 60 stolen motorcycles worth ₹50 lakh, officials said.

The accused have been identified as Yuvraj, 26, and Ranjith Kumar, 27, both cab drivers from Vellore in Tamil Nadu, and their associates Vinod and Manikanta.

Following a bike theft complaint, a special team led by Inspector Ramamurthy B. analysed over 80 CCTV camera footages from various locations before zeroing in on the accused. Based on their confession, the police recovered 60 stolen motorcycles that were parked at isolated locations in Gudiyattam in Tirupattur district, Tamil Nadu, which were allegedly about to be delivered to buyers.

"With their arrest, we have solved eight bike theft cases. Efforts are on to trace the owners of the remaining motorcycles, most of which have not been reported stolen," Mr. Ramamurthy said.

According to the police, Yuvraj and Ranjith would travel to Bengaluru in a car, target only Hero Honda Splendor motorcycles, steal them, and ride the bikes back to their native place. With the help of their associates, the stolen vehicles were sold to contacts allegedly involved in timber smuggling.

Investigations revealed that the buyers operated from remote hilly regions, where there was a high demand for two-wheelers.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carry explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (January 7, Wednesday), the following articles are available:

- Rethinking India's skilling outcomes **Newsth.live/skillingoutcomes**
- Not just forests: why grasslands also belong in national climate plans **newsth.live/grasslands**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

FULL CONTEXT

Privatisation and policy gaps threaten India's public health system

India's public health system struggles with chronic underfunding, privatisation, policy failure, and social inequities; doctors occupy a unique position of trust and moral authority, giving them the power to act as agents of social change and challenge policies that worsen disease and suffering

Parth Sharma

The state of healthcare in India has repeatedly been in the news. From fake medicines and unnecessary surgeries to unethical clinical trials, countless people have suffered across the country. At the same time, risk factors for disease are steadily rising due to policy gaps and systemic policy failures. The consumption of ultra-processed foods is driving an epidemic of non-communicable diseases, while unchecked air, water, and soil pollution, along with climate change, are pushing millions more into sickness. Access to good health and quality healthcare remains a privilege that only a few can afford. Class, caste, religion, gender, and other social markers profoundly determine how long one lives in good health and how much suffering one is made to endure.

GETTY IMAGES

Existing problems

The situation from the perspective of those providing care is equally worrisome. ASHA workers continue to struggle for their rights, and working conditions for healthcare workers in most public hospitals remain abysmal.

Privatisation further compounds the problem. With private equity increasingly driving India's private healthcare industry, doctors are now expected to meet monthly targets, much like in any profit-driven sector. Through schemes such as AB PMJAY and rampant public-private partnerships, public money is increasingly shunted to the private sector, further weakening the public health system.

Privatisation has also impacted medical education. With most private medical colleges charging upwards of ₹40 lakhs for undergraduate medical training, doctors are forced to shift their focus from understanding and acting on the social causes of disease to earning enough to recover the massive investment of money and time required to become doctors. Additionally, the medical education system has reduced medical training to MCQ-solving, producing doctors who are more focused on memorising facts and cracking exams than acquiring real clinical skills that can save lives. Today, "just an MBBS" is seen as having little value, and doctors are expected to pursue fellowships even after post-graduation to secure respectable practice or employment.

As health and healthcare increasingly become expensive commodities, and the public health system continues to erode, the future of India's health looks deeply worrisome. While increased public health funding, greater investment in primary care, and regulation of privatisation are frequently discussed as solutions, these remain largely abstract ideas. Their implementation depends on those in power, who repeatedly display apathy at every opportunity. What, then, can save India's crumbling public health system?

Doctors as agents of change

Doctors occupy a unique position of power and trust in society, giving them an exceptional capacity to drive social change. They are among the few professionals who witness, firsthand and daily, how policy decisions translate into human suffering: how poverty becomes malnutrition, how unsafe roads become trauma, how weak regulation becomes cancer, kidney failure, or tuberculosis. This proximity to suffering grants doctors moral authority that few other groups possess. Their voices carry credibility across social classes, in courts, in the media, and in policymaking spaces, precisely because they speak from lived clinical experience rather than abstract ideology.

The idea that the physician's responsibility extends beyond the clinic is not new. To undergraduate students in India, Rudolf Virchow, a German pathologist, is known primarily for his contribution to cell theory and the foundations of modern pathology. However, Virchow's role as a revolutionary physician is rarely discussed.

In 1848, he helped start Medical Reform, a weekly newspaper that promoted the idea that "medicine is a social science" and that "the physician is the natural attorney of the poor." He argued that disease was not merely a biological event but a political and social outcome shaped by poverty, poor housing, hunger, lack of education, and exclusion from power.

Virchow did not limit these ideas to academic writing. Convinced that lasting improvements in health required structural change, he entered active politics. In 1861, he co-founded the German Progressive Party and was elected to the Prussian Diet, where he emerged as a leading constitutional opponent of Otto von Bismarck's authoritarian and militaristic policies. Virchow consistently argued that state resources should be directed away from military expansion and toward sanitation, housing, education, and public health infrastructure. For him, these were not welfare measures but essential medical interventions.

His political engagement continued in the German Reichstag from 1880 to 1893, where he advocated for urban sanitation systems, clean water supply, public education, and scientific freedom. Virchow used legislative spaces to translate epidemiological observations into policy, insisting that physicians had a duty to confront the social conditions that produced illness.

By stepping beyond hospitals and laboratories into newspapers, parliaments, and public debate, Virchow exemplified the physician not as a passive technician, but as an active agent of social change.

Virchow's legacy is not an isolated historical exception.

In 1985, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, recognising how physicians mobilised their scientific authority and moral credibility to challenge nuclear proliferation and frame it as an existential public health threat. Their work demonstrated how medical knowledge could be deployed to confront global political violence and reframe security debates around human survival and health.

Similarly, doctors have played visible roles in struggles against oppressive political systems. During the apartheid era in South Africa, physicians organised to expose racial discrimination in healthcare, document abuses, and challenge the medical establishment's complicity with state violence. Groups of doctors openly opposed apartheid policies, asserting that neutrality in the face of injustice was incompatible with medical ethics.

India, too, has its own history of physicians as social reformers. Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy stands out as a powerful example, a doctor who used her medical training to challenge deeply entrenched social injustices. As one of India's first women doctors and legislators, she fought against child marriage, devadasi practices, and the exclusion of women from education and public life. Her work illustrates how medical authority can be leveraged to advance gender justice, social reform, and public welfare far beyond the clinic.

Together, these examples underline a critical point: the physician's role has never been confined to diagnosis and treatment alone.

Across history and geographies, doctors have stepped into public life to confront injustice, authoritarianism, and structural violence, affirming Virchow's enduring claim that medicine is inseparable from social change, and that physicians, by virtue of their work, are uniquely positioned to act as its agents.

Political accountability

It is high time doctors in India began questioning why their outpatient departments are increasingly crowded with patients presenting at advanced stages of disease; why the medicines they prescribe are unaffordable for most; and why, when affordable, those treatments are often ineffective.

Oncologists must ask why tobacco and alcohol continue to be aggressively promoted through surrogate advertising, why smokeless tobacco has become more affordable rather than less, why patients in India lack access to newer and potentially life-saving cancer therapies, and why so much suffering remains normalised. Trauma surgeons must confront why road traffic injuries are rising in India. Nephrologists must ask why the number of people requiring dialysis is rising so rapidly, and why access to dialysis remains so limited. Obstetricians must question why anaemia continues to be a major and persistent problem among pregnant women. Pulmonologists must ask why we have failed to eliminate tuberculosis despite decades of sustained effort and resources.

Following these questions inevitably leads to the same conclusions: policy failure, either because effective policies do not exist or because existing policies remain confined to paper and are never meaningfully implemented. These answers also point to persistent complacency, and often complicity, among those in power. They lead us to multiple "industries" that prioritise profit over people's health, often enabled, protected, or even actively supported by the state.

India's health system can be compared to a bucket whose job is to contain suffering and keep the floor dry. Today, that bucket is overflowing, yet most of our attention is focused on finding better and more sophisticated mops to manage the spill. These mops, our diagnostic and treatment modalities, are themselves often flawed, while the flooding continues to worsen because of the holes in the bucket: public-private partnerships, unchecked privatisation, and chronic underfunding of public healthcare. Meanwhile, few are willing to look upstream at the tap and ask the more uncomfortable questions: Who benefits from the tap being left open? How can it be closed? Who is responsible for closing it, and why are they not doing so? Doctors must help shift the focus to the tap, even as they continue to question the tools used to keep the floor dry.

Doctors not only have the power to drive social change; they also carry a moral responsibility to stand up for the rights of those who suffer, the very people who entrusted them with their bodies and made it possible for them to become doctors in the first place. Silence, therefore, is not neutrality but a conscious choice to forgo influence. In a deeply unequal society like India, where many affected communities lack voice or power, doctors can amplify lived realities into public action. Their social standing, combined with ethical obligation, places them uniquely, not just as healers of disease, but as challengers of the structures that produce it.

Parth Sharma is a community physician and a public health researcher. Views expressed are personal

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"What was all that commotion about last night?"

"A thief entered someone's house and ran away with their VCR. A couple of policemen are searching him now."

"The police have caught the thief already."

"That was pretty quick."

"I didn't say that the police had caught him. They are still searching him. Do you think...."

"I see. There's a big difference in meaning between searching for someone/something and search someone."

"When you search for someone, I guess you are trying to find someone. In other words, you are looking for someone."

"Exactly! Here's an example. The husband went searching for his missing wife."

"In one of the movies I saw recently, the hero searches for an escaped convict in an underwater cave."

"When the news of the crash reached the village, the volunteers rushed to the crash site and spent the next twelve hours searching for survivors."

"That was nice of them."

"You can also search for something. For example, the pirates were searching for lost treasure."

"The scientists were searching for dinosaur eggs."

"I'm searching for peace."

"My, My! My! You sound like a philosopher. It doesn't suit you at all."

"What do you mean? I am ....."

"Let's not get into an argument. Now tell me, what does search something mean?"

"When you search someone, you go through their pockets and see what they have on them. In other words, you find out what it is they are carrying. What ...."

"...that is what the police do in the movies all the time."

"That's right! When you search someone, you find out what it is the person has on him/her. You are trying to find out if the person has something hidden."

"In other words, you attempt to find out what it is the man has on him."

"Exactly! Is he carrying a gun? Does he have drugs on him? Here is an example. When the constable finally caught the pickpocket, he searched him thoroughly."

"Before he entered the President's office, he was searched."

"The gang members searched me before they let me enter their boss."

"Gang members! I didn't know you were a member of a gang."

"Just an example, silly. You can also search something."

"The old man searched his son's room for cigarettes."

"Renu searched the files for the missing documents."

"Did she find them?"

"Search me! You mean you have the documents."

"No, no! When somebody asks you something and you reply search me; it means that you have no idea what the answer to the question is."

"Is it another way of saying 'I don't know'?"

"I guess you could say that."

"Every time my physics teacher asks me a question, I feel like saying Search me. Can I say that?"

"You can. But one thing you must remember is that search me is considered informal. So, don't use it in all contexts."

Published in The Hindu on March 23, 1999

Word of the day

Morass:
an unpleasant and complicated situation that is difficult to escape from

Synonyms: trap, tangle, confusion

Usage: *The project is stuck in a morass.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/morasspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /məræs/

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Recently, the U.S. forces landed in sovereign Venezuela and captured President Nicolas Maduro in a military operation. A quiz on CIA and its many 'interventions'

Mohammed Hidhayat

QUESTION 1

The U.S. spy agency, Belgian authorities, and the U.K.'s MI6 were involved in the assassination of this African country's first democratically elected Prime Minister. Name the independence leader and the country he led?

QUESTION 2

Which South American dictator seized power and ruled for 17 years after the CIA's involvement in the destabilisation of the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende in 1973?

QUESTION 3

What was the most significant intelligence analysis failure related to the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq?

QUESTION 4

The CIA devised several failed and unrealistic assassination plots, including poisoned cigars, exploding seashells, and contaminated diving suits, against which Latin American revolutionary leader?

QUESTION 5

Although never established as a historical fact, X was alleged to have been a CIA agent. American journalist Seymour Hersh's 1983 book claimed that X received $20,000 from the CIA as a spy, prompting a lawsuit in a U.S. court. While Mr. Hersh was cleared of the libel charge, Henry Kissinger testified that, to the best of his knowledge, X was not an informant. Identify X, a former Prime Minister of India.

Visual Question:
Name this award-winning film that drew criticism as 'CIA hagiography', especially from journalists, for implying that torture yielded vital intelligence. AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. What was the intent of the Monroe Doctrine issued in 1823? **Ans: To oppose European intervention in the Western Hemisphere and declare the Americas as a sphere of influence separate from Europe**
2. What geopolitical crisis preceded the articulation of the Roosevelt Corollary? **Ans: The Venezuelan crisis of 1902–1903, in which Britain, Germany, and Italy blockaded Venezuela over unpaid debts**
3. How does the Roosevelt Corollary expand the Monroe Doctrine? **Ans: It asserted the U.S. right to intervene in Latin American countries to preserve order and prevent European intervention, effectively making the U.S. a hemispheric "policeman"**
4. What was one of the earliest uses of the Roosevelt Corollary in practice? **Ans: U.S. intervention in the Dominican Republic to manage the country's debt and finances**
5. Which U.S. policy later renounced the Roosevelt Corollary's interventionist thrust? **Ans: Franklin D. Roosevelt's Good Neighbor policy**
Visual: The American intervention in which a Latin-American country is being depicted in this political cartoon? **Ans: The Dominican Republic**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Sukdev Shet | Sumana Dutta | Sadhan Panda

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DKS urges institutional reform of BDA

Adopt a solution-orientated approach rather than repeatedly raising objections on files to make the system corrupt, he says

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday called for a fundamental transformation of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), urging officials to shed its long-standing image associated with "brokerage" and "unethical" practices.

Speaking at a training workshop for BDA employees on administrative reforms and public grievance redressal, Mr. Shivakumar said the authority must change its character as it completes 50 years this year.

"At least from this year onwards, BDA must reform itself, as it completes 50 years. The stigma attached to it as a body driven by "business" and "brokerage" must be removed," he said, emphasising that discipline and integrity were essential for an internationally reputed city like

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at the BDA staff training program in Bengaluru on Tuesday. ANI

BDA@50

Bengaluru. Mr. Shivakumar revealed that it took him six months to understand the internal functioning of the Authority, which is plagued with corruption. "I have identified where corruption exists and where good work is being done," he said, adding that all records are being digitised to tackle this, despite facing resistance.

Warning officials against procedural delays, he asked them to adopt a solution-orientated approach rather than repeatedly raising objections on files to make the system corrupt. "Do not commit mistakes and come to my notice. Once a case is registered, I won't bend for any recommendation," he cautioned.

Speaking about Bengaluru's rapid growth, Mr. Shivakumar said the city was not originally planned to handle its current population of 1.4 crore. He acknowledged Mysuru has been planned better than Bengaluru and that apart from neighbourhoods such as Jayanagar, Malleswaram, and Chamarajpet, the city lacked well-planned residential areas. "This failure is not just of officials but also of politicians, past commissioners, and town planners over the years," he said.

Mr. Shivakumar pointed to plans to start a town planning college in Bengaluru through Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU).

He stressed that urban planning must extend beyond Bengaluru to all cities, ensuring better connectivity and mobility in every city.

Mr. Shivakumar reiterated his intention to build Peripheral Ring Road, now rebranded as Bengaluru Business Corridor. He said earlier delays in implementing the project had resulted in a steep escalation of costs. While the project could have been completed at ₹26,000 crore earlier, it now requires nearly ₹50,000 crore due to land acquisition expenses. He said multiple compensation options had been offered to landowners and asserted that not even an inch of land would be denotified during his tenure.

Calling BDA and the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) the "face of Bengaluru", Mr. Shivakumar said citizens must approach the authorities with trust and dignity. "Criticism will fade, but our work will remain. We must ensure our contribution helps build a better Bengaluru," he said.

Fast-track land acquisition, officials told

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru East City Corporation Commissioner, D.S. Ramesh on Tuesday directed officials to expedite land acquisition for taking up road widening, grade separator, and elevated corridor projects.

The commissioner discussed the issues regarding the land acquisition process for the Kadugodi additional railway overbridge project with Karnataka Road Development Corporation Ltd. (KRDCL).

Mr. Ramesh instructed officials to persuade the owners of 14 properties to hand over the required land for the road widening work to a width of 45 m from Varthur Kodi to Varthur Village in accordance with the Revised Master Plan. The commissioner also directed officials to take up road widening works near Vinayaka Theatre, as most of the acquisition is completed.

Regarding the Varthur Kodi grade separator project, Mr. Ramesh directed the officials to convene a meeting with the owners of 11 properties to persuade them to hand over the required land.

MP holds discussion with BIAL officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

K. Sudhakar, MP for Chickballapur, on Tuesday held a meeting with senior officials of the Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL) and urged them to allow private taxi drivers to continue parking facilities as earlier at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) and to frame appropriate rules to ensure their livelihood is not adversely affected.

Following a representation by taxi drivers' associations, Dr. Sudhakar convened a meeting with representatives of the drivers and airport authorities.

He pointed out that while app-based aggregators charge fares in the range of ₹1,200 to ₹1,500,

K. Sudhakar, MP for Chickballapur, at a meeting in Bengaluru.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

local private taxi drivers often offer services at significantly lower rates.

"Passengers should have the freedom to choose their preferred service provider. Aggregators are present everywhere, and the final choice must rest with the customer," he said.

Addressing concerns raised by airport officials about congestion, he suggested that parking space could be made available to private taxi drivers by levying a nominal user fee, ensuring orderly access without overcrowding.

He added that 18,000 to 20,000 youth from Chickballapur, Bengaluru Rural, Kolar, Tumakuru districts, and neighbouring regions earn their livelihood through taxi services at the airport. Close to one lakh family members are dependent on this occupation.

He said that many private taxi drivers have been serving airport passengers for the last 15 to 20 years, building long-standing relationships with regular travellers and providing affordable, reliable services.

Mr. Sudhakar added that Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy would be holding discussions on the matter. The MP said, if necessary, the issue would be taken up with Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu for further deliberation.

Tiger captured near Hunsur, shifted to BBP

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A male tiger was safely captured in Hunsur taluk of Mysuru district in the early hours of Tuesday.

The Forest Department had deployed a cage in the fields belonging to one Sidde Gowda at Hemmige village.

Forest officials said the tiger is in good health and is between six and seven years old.

The tiger was shifted to at Bannerughatta Biological Park in Bengaluru.

Forest authorities have sounded an alert in view of frequent sightings of tigers.

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Ph: 9845529981

A BG-BGE

Two held for drug peddling, MDMA worth ₹3.5 crore seized

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city police arrested two persons who were allegedly running a drug peddling network and recovered drugs worth ₹3.5 crore.

The accused have been identified as Tariq Iqbal, 33, working as a business analyst in a private firm in Bengaluru, and his associate, Mohammed Arbaz, 29, a PU dropout and a resident of Kadugodi.

In burial ground

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, addressing a press conference, said that 3.2 kg of MDMA crystals, along with a scooter and mobile phones, were seized from the accused. The accused used to keep the MDMA (Ecstasy) crystals buried in a burial ground to avoid detection, the police said.

Tariq had bought the narcotics at a lower rate from a Nigerian national and was selling them to partygoers during New Year celebrations, police said.

Acting on specific intelligence that narcotics were being sold to youths during New Year festivities, Ashok Nagar police laid a trap near a burial ground on Hosur Road and arrested Tariq Iqbal. During interrogation, he revealed that MDMA crystals, procured from a Nigerian national, had been buried next to a tomb in the burial grounds. Police recovered 2.48 kg of MDMA crystals from there.

Arbaz was arrested in Baiyyappanahalli's Malleshpalya area. A subsequent search of his residence in Kadugodi led to the seizure of an additional 720 gm of MDMA crystals.

Both the accused have been booked under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, and further investigation is on to identify other members of the drug network.

Leopard knocked down by vehicle, dies

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A four-year-old leopard was killed after it was reportedly hit by a vehicle near Gulasinda in Channarayapatna taluk at Hassan on Tuesday. Forest Department officials learnt about the incident from locals and rushed to the spot.

Hassan Deputy Conservator of Forests Sourabh Kumar told *The Hindu* CCTV footage from the toll plaza and elsewhere was examined to identify the vehicle. However, the incident occurred at a spot where there were no cameras.

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Tender Notice No: T1/TNPCB/F.021651/TNSHORE-TNFI/2024
Dated: 05.01.2026

E-tender (2-cover system) through TN etenders' website are invited for the "Establishment of the Discarded Fishnet Collection Centres (DFNCC) at 06 Districts viz., Thiruvallur, Chennai, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Cuddalore and Tiruvarur in Tamil Nadu".

The tender documents can be downloaded from https://tntenders.gov.in and www.tnpcb.gov.in on or after **07.01.2026.** The last date for the receipt of the tender is **21.01.2026.**

Chairperson
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai - 32

DIPR/51/Tender/2026

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, WATER RESOURCES, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR.
'e' Procurement Notice No.CEMKS 16 OF 2025-26

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakh)	Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	EMD (Online) (in Rupees)	Period of Completion
01	Cement Concrete Lining of Distributary No.-14 A from RD 0.00 km to 8.90 km off-taking at RD 3.50 km from Distributary No.-14	Rs.1043.05	Chief Engineer & BM, Mahanadi Kathajodi System, Bhubaneswar.	CEMKS MSD 04 of 2025-26	10,43,500/-	18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months
02	CC Lining of Distributary No. -14 B from RD 0.00 km to 8.90 km off-taking at RD 3.50 km from Distributary No.-14.	Rs.1080.73		CEMKS MSD 05 of 2025-26	10,80,730/-	18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months

1. Cost of Bid Document : Rs. 10,000/- each (online)
2. Class of Contractor : "A" and "Special" Class Contractor.
3. Date of Availability of Tender : 07.01.2026 10.00 Hours to 21.01.2026 17.00 Hours
4. Date of Opening : 22.01.2026 at 11.00 Hours.
e-mail Id : celmbbbsr@yahoo.co.in

Further detail conditions can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
The Corrigendum/cancellation of Tender, if any, will be uploaded and can be seen from the above website only.
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Kathajodi System, Bhubaneswar
A-1233: OIPR-32252/11/00027/2526

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT,
OLD SECRETARIAT, CUTTACK-753001
Telephone/ FAX No. 2959551; eMail: ccf_td@rediffmail.com
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE : e-Tender No. RFP/02/CCFT&D/2025-26 Dt. 07.01.2026

1.	Name of the work	: RFP FOR PMC SERVICES FOR AUDIO-VISUAL AND FURNISHING WORK AT STATE FOREST ACADEMY, SHYAMSUNDARPUR, BHUBANESWAR
2.	No. of works	: 1 (One) No.
3.	Date of availability of bid document in the portal	: 07.01.2026
4.	Last date for receipt of bids in the portal	: 21.01.2026
5.	Date of opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)	: 22.01.2026
6.	Name & Address of Officer Inviting Tender (OIT)	: Chief Conservator of Forests (Training & Development), Old Secretariat Building, Cuttack- 753001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https//www.tenderodisha.gov.in.
Chief Conservator of Forests
Training and Development, Cuttack
MM-475: OIPR-08172/11/0005/2526

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
M.E.D.C.No.M1/2783/2025
e - Tender is invited for the following works by Superintending Engineer (Mech), as per Tender Condition
Purchase of 2 numbers of Vehicle Mounted High-Capacity Suction Cum Jetting Machines for the use of North Region (As per Tender Condition)

Work value:	EMD Amount:
Rs.4,00,00,000/-	Rs.4,00,000/-

Last Date and time for bid Submission: **27.01.2026,3.00** PM
Tender Opening Date and Time: **27.01.2026, 4.30** PM
For further details please visit: **https://tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR / 55 / Tender / 2026
Superintending Engineer (Mech)

தமிழ்நாடு மகளிர் மேம்பாட்டு நிறுவனம்
ஊரக வளர்ச்சி மற்றும் ஊராட்சித் துறை
Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM), Mother Teresa Women's Complex
I Floor, Valluvar Kottam High Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 034.
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)
(Consulting Services – Firms)

Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

Consulting firm for Strengthening 500 Panchayat Level Federations / Area Level Federations (PLFs/ALFs) in Tamil Nadu through Digital Tools

The detailed REOI and Terms of Reference is available on the website – **www.https://tncdw.org/**. Last date and time for submission of **Expression of Interest (EOI) is 22.01.2026 up to 4.00 p.m.** The agency may submit their "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST" in a sealed envelope, clearly super scribed as "Expression of Interest" to Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Ltd, Mother Teresa Women's Complex, I Floor, Valluvar Kottam High Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600 034, Tamil Nadu, India.
The Managing Director
DIPR/38/DISPLAY/2026 Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Ltd

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-BRIDGES - 12 / 2025-26

1. The Chief Engineer (Bridges), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road & Bridge work as detailed below :
2. Nature of work : **Road / Bridge works**
3. No. of work : **02 nos.**
4. Tender Paper Cost : **Rs.10,000.00 (On-line)**
5. Class of Contractor : **Special / Super Class Contractor**
6. Available of bid document in the website : **From 10.00 AM of 07.01.2026 to 5.00 PM of 04.02.2026**
7. Date of opening of Bid : **Dt.05.02.2026 at 11.30 AM**
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tenderodisha.gov.in** . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Engineer, Bridges, Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
B-934 OIPR-34174/11/0056/2526

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044 Email: ce2wssd@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice No. 63 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of **"Appointment of a Contractor for Sewerage arrangement of 5 Clusters and 8 Villages in Taluka Haveli under the jurisdiction of the PMRDA region."**

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: **https://mahatenders.gov.in/** from 27/01/2026 at 11.00 am. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 26/02/2026 upto 16.30 Pm. The changes if any can be available on **https://mahatenders.gov.in/**

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044 Email: ce2wssd@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice No. 61 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of **"Appointment of a Contractor for the Pawana river Pollution Abatement Project under the jurisdiction of the PMRDA region."**

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: **https://mahatenders.gov.in/** from 27/01/2026 at 11.00 am. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 26/02/2026 upto 16.30 Pm. The changes if any can be available on **https://mahatenders.gov.in/**

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
Ph No.: +91-651-2225878, CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752, e-mail Id-juidcolimited@gmail.com

Project Name: Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Consultant for Preparation of Alternative Analysis Report (AAR) & Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Transit Corridors in Ranchi, Jharkhand
NIT No.: JUIDCO/ NIT/ AAR/ RNC/ 2025- 681 **PR No.**: 368649 **Tender ID**: 2025_UDD_107917_1
This is for information of all the bidders that following Corrigendum is being made in the subjected tender.
The bidders are advised to take into account the following Corrigendum before submission of their bids against this tender.

Corrigendum - 1

Sl. No.	Bid Document Ref.	Description	As per NIT	As per Corrigendum 1
1.	NIT	Last Date & Time of submission of Bid, Tender Fee and EMD online	06.01.2026 at 17:00 Hrs	15.01.2026 at 17:00 Hrs
2.		Date & Time of Bid Opening	07.01.2026 at 17:00 Hrs	16.01.2026 at 17:00 Hrs

Note: Other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd.
PR 370084 Urban Development (25-26)_D

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO) LIQUID PROPULSION SYSTEMS CENTRE (LPSC)
Construction & Maintenance Division
LPSC Campus, 80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru -560 008. Ph:080-25037203/080-25037214
Date: 06.01.2026

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, item rate tenders are invited for the following work:

Sl. No.	Name of work and NIT No. & Date	Estimated Amount	EMD	Period of Completion
1	Construction of Integrated Information Technology (IT) Annex Building (vertical Extension 3rd Floor, Block-B, Main Building) at LPSC(B) Campus, Bengaluru-**Electrical works.** E-Tender Notice No: LPSC(B)/CMD/01/1002/E/MJ/003/2025-26 Dated: 06.01.2026	₹ 34.57 Lakhs	₹ 69,140/-	04 Months
	Period of downloading: From 07.01.2026 to 16.01.2026			

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** Also detailed Notice Invting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from **www.isro.gov.in, www.lpsc.gov.in**
Sd/- Head CMD, LPSC(B)

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044 Email: ce2wssd@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice No. 60 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of **"Appointment of a Contractor for the Indrayani river Pollution Abatement Project under the jurisdiction of the PMRDA region."**

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: **https://mahatenders.gov.in/** from 27/01/2026 at 11.00 am. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 26/02/2026 upto 16.30 Pm. The changes if any can be available on **https://mahatenders.gov.in/**

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044 Email: ce2wssd@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice No. 62 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of **"Appointment of a Contractor for Sewerage arrangement of 3 Clusters and 6 Villages in Taluka Mulshi under the jurisdiction of the PMRDA region."**

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: **https://mahatenders.gov.in/** from 27/01/2026 at 11.00 am. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 26/02/2026 upto 16.30 Pm. The changes if any can be available on **https://mahatenders.gov.in/**

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
6th, 7th, & 8th Floor, Tower-B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029
Website: www.cercind.gov.in

Petition No. 872/TL/2025 Dated: 1.1.2026

NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003

An application under Sections 14 and 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (the Act) has been made by **Ananthapuram II Power Transmission Limited**, Plot No. 137, Avtar Enclave, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi – 110063 to establish the Inter-State transmission system for "Transmission System for Integration of Ananthapuram-II REZ – Phase II (3 GW)" (hereinafter referred to as "the Project") on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer Basis consisting of the following elements:

S. No.	Name of Transmission Element	Scheduled COD
1.	Augmentation of Ananthapuram-II PS by 400/220 kV, 1x500 MVA ICT • 400/220 kV, 500 MVA, ICT – 1 no. • 400 kV ICT bay – 1 no. • 400 kV Bus Sectionalizer: 1 set • 220 kV ICT bay – 1 no. • 220 kV Bus Sectionalizer: 1 set • 220 kV Bus Coupler (BC) Bay – 1 no. • 220 kV Transfer Bus Coupler (TBC) Bay – 1 no.	24 months (17.10.2027)
2.	220 kV line bays at Ananthapuram-II PS for termination of dedicated transmission lines of RE generation projects • 220 kV line bays – 2 nos.	
3.	400 kV line bays at Ananthapuram-II PS for termination of dedicated transmission line of RE generation projects • 400 kV line bays – 3 nos.	
4.	Augmentation of Ananthapuram-II PS by 765/400 kV, 2x1500 MVA and 400/220 kV, 6x500 MVA ICTs • 765/400 kV, 1500 MVA, ICTs – 2 nos. • 765 kV ICT bays – 2 nos. • 400 kV ICT bays – 2 nos. • 400/220 kV, 500 MVA, ICTs – 6 nos. • 400 kV ICT bays – 6 nos. • 220 kV ICT bays – 6 nos. • 220 kV Bus Sectionalizer: 1 set • 220 kV Bus Coupler (BC) Bay – 1 no. • 220 kV Transfer Bus Coupler (TBC) Bay – 1 no.	
5	220 kV line bays at Ananthapuram-II PS for termination of dedicated transmission lines of RE generation projects • 220 kV line bays – 10 nos.	
6.	Establishment of 3x1500 MVA, 765/400 kV CN'Halli Station with 2x330 MVAr (765 kV) bus reactors • 765/400 kV, 1500 MVA, ICTs – 3 nos. (10x500 MVA incl. 1 spare unit) • 765 kV ICT bay – 3 nos. • 400 kV ICT bay – 3 nos. • 765 kV line bays – 2 nos. (at CN'Halli for termination of CN'Halli – Ananthapuram-II PS 765 kV D/c line) • 765 kV, 330 MVAr Bus Reactors – 2 nos. (7x110 MVAr inc. 1 switchable spare unit) • 765 kV Bus Reactor bays – 2 nos. • 400 kV line bays – 6 nos. **Future Space Provisions:** • 765/400 kV, 1500 MVA, ICTs – 3 nos. • 765 kV ICT bays – 3 nos. • 400 kV ICT bays – 3 nos. • 765 kV line bays – 6 nos. (with provision for SLR) • 400 kV line bays – 12 nos. (with provision for SLR) • 400 kV Bus Sectionalizer: 1 set	30 months (17.04.2028)
7.	Ananthapuram-II PS – CN'Halli 765 kV D/c line with 330 MVAr SLR at Ananthapuram-II end on both circuits • 765 kV line bays –2 • 765 kV, 330 MVAr SLR at Ananthapuram-II – 2 nos. (6x110 MVAr switchable units)	
8.	LILO of one circuit of Talaguppa - Neelmangala 400 kV D/c line at CN'Halli	
9.	LILO at CN'Halli of already LILOed section of one circuit of Talaguppa - Neelmangala 400 kV line at Hassan	

Note:
i) TSP of Ananthapuram-II Phase-I shall provide space at Ananthapuram-II PS for carrying out above augmentation works.
ii) TSP of Ananthapuram-II Phase-I shall provide space for 2 Nos. of 765 kV line bays at Ananthapuram-II PS for termination of Ananthapuram-II PS — CN'Halli 765 kV D/C line."

2. The Central Transmission Utility of India Limited, vide its letter dated 3.11.2025, has recommended for the grant of a transmission licence to the applicant to establish the proposed transmission system.
3. Based on the material available on the record, the Commission vide order dated 31.12.2025 in Petition No. 872/TL/2025, has proposed to issue a transmission licence to the applicant for the establishment of the transmission scheme as noted in para 1 above.
4. A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State transmission licence to **Ananthapuram II Power Transmission Limited**, before the Commission can be accessed at the **www.sccgroup.co.in** or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.
5. Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act that suggestions or objections, if any, to the Commission's proposal to grant a transmission licence to the applicant, as aforesaid, be sent to the undersigned by **11.1.2026** at the above noted address. The suggestions or objections received after the specified date shall not be considered.
6. The application shall be taken up for the further hearing by the Commission on **13.1.2026.** Any person who files suggestions or objections may in his/her discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

Sd/-
(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)
Secretary

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda
ROSAR Branch,
Bangalore Central, 5th Floor, Vijaya Towers, Trinity Circle, Bangalore-560001
Ph: No: 080-25011426, Email: sarbec@bankofbaroda.co.in

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties
"APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on 04.02.2026 **"As is where is", "As is what is",** and **"Whatever there is"** basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/Mortgagor/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below –

Sr. No.	NAME & ADDRESS OF BORROWER/S / GUARANTOR/ S/ MORTGAGOR (S)	SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY WITH KNOWN ENCUMBRANCES IF ANY (OWNER/MORTGATOR NAME : MRS. ELIJABETH ANTONY RAJ)	TOTAL DUES	DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION	RESERVE PRICE, EMD, LAST DATE OF EMD AMOUNT AND BID INCREASE AMOUNT	STATUSOF POSSESSION (CONSTRUCTIVE /PHYSICAL)	PROPERTY INSPECTION DATE AND TIME
1. 2.	**Mr. Mohit Kumar Baradia S/o Rajkumar Baradia,** Proprietor M/s Mohit Enterprises, Property Sy.No.6/1, "Akruti Amity" Apartment, Flat No:003, Ground Floor, Block E, 13th Cross Road, Huskur Gate, Ananthanagar, 2nd Phase, Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru – 560 100. **Also at: Mr. Mohit Kumar Baradia,** 124, Kumba Building, 1st Floor, Bapuji Layout, Near KFC Restaurant, Chandra Layout,Vijayanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560 040 **Also at: M/s Mohit Enterprises** Prop.Mr. Mohit Kumar Baradia, No.9, 4th Cross, 2nd Floor, S P Road, Bengaluru – 560 002. **Also at: Mr. Mohit Kumar Baradia S/o Rajkumar Baradia,** Proprietor M/s Mohit Enterprises No.25, 13th Block, 2nd Stage, 2nd Main Road, 1st Cross,Nagarbhavi, Bangalore-560072.	**SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY** Property Sy. No. 6/1, admeasuring 2030 sq.ft. Super Built-up-area and 750 Sq.ft of undivided share situated at "Aakruti Amity" Apartment, Flat No. 003, Ground Floor, Block E, Property bearing Converted Sy No. 6/1, 13th Cross Road, Huskur Gate, Ananthanagar 2nd Phase, kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District – 560100.	**Rs. 1,63,27,601.82** (Rupees One Crore Sixty Three Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Six Hundred One and Eighty Two Paise Only) as on **04.01.2026** Plus further interest and charges till date.	**04.02.2026** From 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM	Reserve Price : **Rs.64,11,000/-** EMD : **Rs. 6,41,100/-** Last Date and Time of Receipt of EMD Amount : **03.02.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.** Bid Increment Amount : **Rs.25,000/-**	Physical Possession	**(28.01.2026 from 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.)** Any other time with Prior Appointment from Authorized Officer

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link **https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction** and online auction portal **https://baanknet.com.** Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on Tel No: 080 25011426, **Mobile: 9820809437 / 9230849919.**

Date: 06 Jan 2026
Place: Bengaluru

Ankur Saha
Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda

Internships: VTU to act against pvt. firms seeking money from students

Students have complained that some firms are promising to give internship certificates without having to work if they pay

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

There have been allegations that many private companies registered on the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) portal are demanding money from students for internships, instead of providing paid internships. Students have complained that some companies are luring them by promising to provide internship certificates without having to work if they pay.

Following these complaints, VTU has decided to blacklist companies that ask students for money for internships. In addition, it has decided to appoint squads to inspect the companies offering internships.

VTU has decided to blacklist companies that ask students for money for internships and to appoint squads to inspect the companies offering internships. FILE PHOTO

Course requirement

Engineering students are required to do a minimum of six months of internship in the 7th or 8th semesters to acquire the necessary skills in the stream they are studying. VTU has allocated nine credits for an internship. In the past, there were complaints about submission of fake certificates due to lack of proper monitoring of the companies and students doing internships.

Following this, VTU implemented a paid internship policy. As per this, the companies should pay a monthly stipend. VTU, which has launched a separate online portal for this purpose, has instructed the companies offering internships to register themselves compulsorily. More than 2,500 companies that have agreed to provide paid internships to students of VTU-affiliated colleges have registered.

However, there have been allegations that some private companies, instead of providing paid internships to students, are demanding money from the students.

"I am an 8th-semester student of the Mechanical Engineering branch and applied online for an internship with a company registered on the VTU portal. But, instead of a paid internship, I was asked to pay the money instead. It is not right to allow companies that charge money from students to register on VTU portal," alleged a student of a private engineering college.

"Students have complained that some companies are promising to give certificates without working if they pay. Some fake companies are also registering on the VTU portal. We have requested VTU to look into this matter and take action," said the principal of a government engineering college.

Appointment of squads

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Vidyashankar, Vice-Chancellor of VTU, said that some irregularities had come to their notice.

"We will look into this matter and blacklist the guilty companies. Some students may also be involved in such acts. In this context, VTU will appoint squads to make surprise visits to the companies and take action to verify whether students are doing internships or not," he said.

In addition, maintenance of internship diary will be made mandatory for students, he added.

Too many students, too few chances

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Every year, about 85,000 students qualify for internships in VTU-affiliated engineering colleges. However, companies are not coming forward to provide internships to such a large number of students.

Vidyashankar, Vice-Chancellor of VTU, said, "For example, every year Infosys conducts an all-India level selection to provide internships to 1,000 students. Out of this, not even 50 of our students are selected. Boeing provides paid-internships to only 28 of our students. Therefore, a meeting of large private companies will be called and a request will be made to provide more internships The government will be requested to bring in some rules."

Govt. first-grade colleges set a target of 75% admissions this year

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

With an aim to increasing enrolment in government first-grade colleges across the State, the Department of Collegiate Education (DCE) is all set to conduct a special admission drive for 2026-27, Praveshati Abhiyana, in all government pre-university colleges in the State.

Manjushree N., Commissioner, DCE, in a circular issued recently, has instructed to take steps to fill at least 75% of the sanctioned intake in the academic year 2026-27. "Colleges that have admitted more than 75% in the academic year 2025-26 should increase the number of admissions by at least 10% compared to the previous academic year," she said in the circular.

As part of the campaign, the principals of government first-grade colleges have been advised to visit all government pre-university colleges by January 20 and introduce and convince students about the courses available in their colleges and the job opportunities available from them, thereby increasing the number of admissions in degree colleges. All the first-grade colleges have been directed to form an admission committee for the purpose.

The drive is being held in the backdrop of dwindling admissions in government first-grade colleges. FILE PHOTO

Meanwhile, it has come to the notice of the Department that faculties in some colleges are making duplicate admissions to facilitate their work. In this context, the Commissioner, DCE, has warned the faculties that if the dropout rate of students in any stream/course exceeds 25%, the principal of the college concerned will be held directly responsible.

The admission drive is being held in the backdrop of dwindling admissions in government first-grade colleges due to a lack of necessary infrastructure, students being attracted to private colleges and universities, among a host of other reasons.

City firm building single software system to fix issue of different EV chargers

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

As electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across cities often run into problems because chargers from different companies do not work well together, Bengaluru-based EV software firm Kazam is building a single software system to help operators manage and fix these chargers.

Kazam was incubated at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIM-B).

Electric vehicle charging stations across cities often run into problems because chargers from different companies do not work well together. FILE PHOTO

For charger operators, the larger issue is not only installing more stations but understanding why a charger fails when it does and whether the problem is a power cut, a software glitch, or a physical fault that needs a technician on site. The lack of clarity often leads to downtime, higher costs and inconvenience for users.

Incubated at IIM-B through its start-up centre NSRCEL, Kazam works behind the scenes as a technology backbone for EV charging networks.

Pallavi N.B. of Kazam said that the company's aim is to remove the complexity that arises when operators deploy chargers sourced from multiple manufacturers across cities and highways.

The platform is 'agnostic', meaning its software is not tied to any single charger brand. This allows operators to view and manage all their chargers even if they are made by different companies on one common dashboard. "Instead of relying on manual checks or trial-and-error fixes, operators can remotely see the status of each charger, identify the exact nature of a fault and respond faster, reducing both downtime and maintenance costs," Ms. Pallavi said.

This problem has become more pronounced as EV infrastructure has expanded rapidly in India. Most operators procure chargers from different vendors, each using its own firmware and communication methods. While many chargers follow the Open Charge Point Protocol (OCPP), the industry-standard communication system, its implementation varies across manufacturers.

"The OCPP is like a common language, but each manufacturer speaks it slightly differently," Ms. Pallavi said, explaining how even minor variations can affect data accuracy or command execution.

To address this, Kazam works closely with charger manufacturers at their factories and research centres to align how the OCPP is implemented, ensuring that chargers from different brands behave consistently once they are connected to Kazam's Charging Management System.

The platform currently hosts more than 1.07 lakh chargers on its network.

At an operational level, the company's software monitors chargers in real time, tracking uptime, energy use and fault alerts. This helps operators detect issues early and move towards predictive maintenance instead of reactive repairs, reducing downtime and operating costs.

Beyond charging management, the company's platform enables chargers to draw power from local solar and other distributed renewable sources. Through its trading platform, businesses or communities can trade surplus clean energy directly with others. This decentralised model helps reduce pressure on the power grid during peak demand while promoting cleaner energy use. The company is also preparing for vehicle-to-grid (V2G) and vehicle-to-everything (V2X) systems, under which electric vehicles can both draw power from and supply electricity to homes, buildings and the grid.

Tiger found dead at Bhadra reserve

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A tiger, aged about eight to 10, was found dead at Gangegiri (Chikkamagaluru taluk) in Hebbe Range of the Bhadra Tiger Reserve on Tuesday. The preliminary investigation by the officials suggested infighting as the cause of the death.

A team of forest personnel engaged in the All-Tiger Estimation-2026, an exercise to assess the tiger population, noticed the carcass of the tiger and informed higher officers.

Veterinarians and senior officers of the department visited the spot.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 07	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:08
RISE 22:03	SET 09:54
THURSDAY, JAN. 08	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:08
RISE 22:52	SET 10:32
FRIDAY, JAN. 09	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:09
RISE 23:39	SET 11:09

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	27	16
Bengaluru	25	17

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to occur.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client **Smt. Nanjamma** W/o. Sri.Krishnappa, Aged about 56 years, residing at Besthamanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District-562 106 is the absolute owner of residential of **bearing Site No.25, Katha No.2027 and New Katha No.437/2027/25,** East to Weast 40 feet North to South 40 feet, totaly measuring 1600 Square Feet satuated at Bima rao Badavane, Ward No.9 Anekal Town and Taluk, Bengaluru District-562 106 and same has been purchased from one **Sri.Bima Rao** under Sale Deed Dated: 11-11-1986. Whereas on 22-12-2025, my client has Lost Original Sale Deed Dated: 11-11-1986, Document No.1766/1986-87, Valum No.1442 Pages 84 to 86 and My Client has not been found till date. My client **Smt.Nanjamma** W/o. Sri.Krishnappa had filed complaint before the police unit on **02-01-2026.**

Any persons who holding/finding or in possession of said Sale deed document or tittle deed should intimate to undersigned and if any person, Bank financial institution having any claim or right in respect of the said property by way of sale, mortgage, lease, lien is hereby called upon to intimate to undersigned within **7 days** from the date of publication of this noticeand for such claim of any with all supporting documents failing which the transaction in favour my client shall be completed withoutreference to such claim and ifany claims, transactions or if any such persons shall be treated as waived and not binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **Site bearing No.25,** bearing Katha No. 2027, in the layout known as **Bima Rao Layout,** measuring: - **East to West: 40 Feet and North to South: 40 Feet,** totally measuring **1600 SFT** situated at: Bima Rao Layout, Ward No.9 Anekal Twon and Taluk Bangalore Urban District.together will all rights, easements, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on: **East by:** Site No. 29 and 30, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Site No.26, **South by:** Site No.24

Sd/- Mohana Kantha K. Advocate,
Off at. S.No.1, Mohammed Gouus Building,
Attibele Road, Anekal Town,
Bengaluru-562106. **Cont. No.89702 87809**

SREENIDHI SOUHARDA SAHAKARI BANK NIYAMITHA
 # 113, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bangalore- 560 004
Phone: 080-25722152/153,Mob:9482422153,
E-mail: sssbn2bmh@sreenidhibank.com

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Sale of Immovable Property Mortgaged to Bank Under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
(No 54 of 2002) -- SARFAESI ACT

Smt.Kokila.P (Borrower)
Sri.Nagabhushana.S.P Borrower/ Mortgager

Whereas **Smt.P.Kokila** D/o Prabhu.M., aged about 43 years, residing at No.190, Vasan Nivas, 4th Main, Singapura Paradise, M.S.Palya, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore-560097 **and also at** No.83, Prateeksha Nilaya, Kaveri Enclave, 1st Floor, 2nd Cross, 9th Main Road, Kanshiram Nagar, Near Sambram College Road, Bangalore-560097 and **Sri.S.P.Nagabhushana** S/o.Late.B.Puttalingaiah, aged about 48 years, residing at No.28/1, Santhrupti, 2nd Cross, 1st Main, Muthurayaswamy Layout, Doddabommasandra, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore-560097 have borrowed monies from **Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, Bommanahalli Branch, # 279, 1st Floor, 16th Cross, 5th Main, 7th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560102. As on 06/01/2026,** they are due to pay a sum of **Rs.40,44,183.04 (Rupees Forty Lakhs Forty Four Thousand One Hundred Eighty Three and Paisa Four only)** of **Smt.Kokila.P,** together with further interest @ 13% per annum and costs thereon, and a sum **Rs.20,41,528/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Forty One Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Eight Only)** of **Sri.S.P.Nagabhushana,** together with further interest **@ 14.00%** per annum and cost thereon.,

Whereas the Authorised Officer of the Bank has issued notice under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and thereafter has taken possession of the property owned and mortgaged by **Sri.S.P.Nagabhushana S/o. Late. B.Puttalingaiah, residing at No.28/1, Santhrupti, 2nd Cross, 1st Main, Muthurayaswamy Layout, Doddabommasandra, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore-560097** mortgaged to the bank and decided to sell the property, described in Schedule "A" herein below, on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' under rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

DETAILS OF SALE:

Place of Auction: Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, #113, R.V.Road, V.V. Puram, Bangalore-560004.
Date/Day & time of auction: 16/02/2026 (Monday) At 11:00 AM.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY:
Schedule-A

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing eastern portion of site No.28, New No.28/1, Old Katha No.1271, BBMP Katha No.1271/45/1/28/1 situated at Doddabommasandra Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 25 Feet, North to South 28 Feet,totally measuring 700 Sq. Feet, consisting of Ground Floor, 1st Floor, 2nd Floor & 3rd Floor, together with all rights appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on:- East by: Private Property, West by: Remaining Western Portion of Same Property in Same number, North by: Road and South by: Site No.27.

Reserve Price: Rs.82,42,300/- (Rupees Eighty Two Lakhs Forty Two Thousand and Three Hundred) Only

Terms & Conditions of Auction:

1) The above schedule property is proposed for public auction on AS IS Where Basis.
2) For participating in the auction, the intending bidders have to deposit 10% of reserve price of the property by Bankers cheque/Demand Draft favoring **"The Authorized Officer, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha",** Payable at Bangalore which is refundable, if the bid is not successful.
3) The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour and the balance within 15 days. Payment to be made only in the form of cash or bankers cheque / DD drawn in favour of **"The Authorized Officer, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha".**
4) In case the successful bidder fails to deposit 25% of bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour and the balance amount within 15 days, the entire deposit made by the bidder shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice.
5) The successful bidder would bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance such as Stamp duty, Registration fee etc., as applicable as per law.
6) The Authorised officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Govt. or anybody in respect of the property under sale.
7) The Authorised Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or adjourn/ postpone the auction without assigning any reason therefore.
8) The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank.
9) The auction of the property will be made as per the above order or at the discretion of the Authorised Officer.

For inspection of property, the intending bidders may contact, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, Bommanahalli Branch, No.279, 1st Floor, 16th Cross, 5th Main, 6th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560 102 during the office hours or may contact at telephone No.080 25722152/153/9482422153/9902335098.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha

Date : 06.01.2026
Place : Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that my client **Sunil .R,** residing at 1779, Sanjeevani Nagar, Sahakaranagar Post, Bangalore – 92. He has lost Sale Deeds document no. 2181/1971-72, dated 10.08.1971 & document no. 2420/1991-92, dated 04.12.1991 & has lodge a police complaint with Bangalore City Police vide **lost report** no. **1992537 / 2026, dated 05.01.2026.** If any person/s find the same, the public is hereby requested to return the same to the address mentioned below for which my client will be obliged.

H.A.AMARNATH Advocate
#272, 2nd Block, R.T.Nagar,
Bengaluru 560032. **M : 9886585809/ 7899865859/ 7204056856 / 9972016798.**
Bengaluru Date : 07-01-2026

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044 Email: ce2wssd@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice No. 66 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of **"Appointment of a Contractor for Sewerage arrangement of 1 Cluster and 2 Villages in taluka maval under the jurisdiction of the PMRDA region."**

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: **https://mahatenders.gov.in/** from 27/01/2026 at 11.00 am. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 26/02/2026 upto 16.30 Pm. The changes if any can be available on **https://mahatenders.gov.in/**

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044 Email: ce2wssd@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice No. 65 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of **"Appointment of a Contractor for Sewerage arrangement of 4 Clusters and 4 Villages in Taluka Shirur under the jurisdiction of the PMRDA region."**

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: **https://mahatenders.gov.in/** from 27/01/2026 at 11.00 am. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 26/02/2026 upto 16.30 Pm. The changes if any can be available on **https://mahatenders.gov.in/**

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044 Email: ce2wssd@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice No. 64 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of **"Appointment of a Contractor for Sewerage arrangement of 3 Clusters and 7 Villages in Taluka Khed under the jurisdiction of the PMRDA region."**

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: **https://mahatenders.gov.in/** from 27/01/2026 at 11.00 am. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 26/02/2026 upto 16.30 Pm. The changes if any can be available on **https://mahatenders.gov.in/**

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOST OF DOCUMENT

My client Mr. Ganesh S, No. 111, 7th Cross, Ambedkarnagar, Srirampuram, Bengaluru-560021, hereby state that my client had lost / misplaced the original Sale Deeds Doc. **No. KCH-1-00626-2014-15** dated 13/05/2014 CD No. KCHD168 regard to the following property bearing Site No.54, in portion of Assessment No.72 & 3, Situated at **N.K.F. Layout, BELLAHALLI VILLAGE,** under the limits of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No.05, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore. MEASURING : East to West : 20" North to South : 30" In total measuring 600 Square feet of Vacant site along with all the rights, liberties, privileges, appurtenances, etc whether underneath or above the surface. AND BOUNDED ON : **EAST BY : Private Property: WEST BY : Private Property; NORTH BY : Eighteen (18') feet wide Road; SOUTH BY : Private Property.**

In this regard my client have lodged a police complaint bearing Lost report No. 1964457/2025 Dated : 18/12/205. If found, please inform me Mobile : 9036345777 or to the nearest police station.

PARIKSHITH MALIYE Advocate
No.209/1, 4th Floor, Palace Corner Apartment (Above Royal Enfield Showroom), Bellary Road, Sadashivnagar, Bengaluru-560 080.
Mob. : 94495 87970
E-mail : parikshithmaliye@gmail.com

Minister's son's driver stabbed

BELAGAVI Unidentified men stabbed Baswant Kadolkar, 32, driver of Mrunal Hebbalkar, son of Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar, in Belagavi on Tuesday. The driver is said to be out of danger. He told the police that more than two people attacked him with a knife.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

TICEL BIO PARK LTD

(TIDCO Centre for Life Science)
CIN: U45309TN2001PLC047979
No.5, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113. Ph: +91 44 2254 2060,
www.ticelbiopark.com Email: md@ticelbiopark.com / scientific@ticelbiopark.com

e-Tender No: TICEL/TFF/2025-26/ 11 Date: 07.01.2026

TICEL invites e-Tender for **"SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF TANGENTIAL FLOW FILTRATION SYSTEM"** in TICEL Phase-III building, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

For more details and participation in the above e-tender, please visit the website **https:/www.tntenders.gov.in/**. Last date for online submission of duly filled tender documents **22.01.2026 @ 3.00 p.m.** TICEL Bio Park Ltd reserves the right to accept / reject any one / all tenders without assigning any reason

DIPR/50/Tender/2026 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD, DIVISION, BALLARI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

PHONE No. 08392 - 267762.
Web site: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Email: Email: eekwbbellary@gmail.com

BID NOTIFICATION

The lumpsum tender for the following works are invited for Firm / Contractor who fulfills the qualification criteria as detailed in the bidding document. The details can be obtained from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

Indent No: 1.KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT406/ Call-4. Amount put tender in Rs: 67,34,051-00. **Bid Security (In Rs.):** 1,35,000-00. **Period of completion:** 06 Months.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KUWS & DB, Division, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/873/KSMCA/2025-26

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited

(A Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
GSTIN: 09AACCU2250P1ZZ CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425

Tender Notice Invitation Date: 06-01-2026

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Lucknow invites tenders on GeM Portal from eligible and qualified Manufacturer/Importer/Authorized Agent for supply of **following Medical Equipment's.** The schedules of Tendering activities are as here under:

Sr. No.	Tender Ref. No. & Date	Items Name	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	Last Date & Submission of Online Bids	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids
1	GEM/2026/B/7065149 Dated: 03-01-2026	Auto Kerato Refractometer/ Auto Ref Keratometer	09/01/2026 at 3:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.	24/01/2026 up to 16:00 PM	24/01/2026 at 16:30 PM
2	GEM/2026/B/7065182 Dated: 03-01-2026	A-Scan	09/01/2026 at 3:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.	24/01/2026 up to 16:00 PM	24/01/2026 at 16:30 PM
3	GEM/2026/B/7065072 Dated: 05-01-2026	Laparoscopic Surgery System	09/01/2026 at 4:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.	15/01/2026 up to 12:00 PM	15/01/2026 at 12:30 PM
4	GEM/2026/B/7074625 Dated: 05-01-2026	Phacoemulsification Machine	09/01/2026 at 4:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.	15/01/2026 up to 20:00 PM	15/01/2026 at 20:30 PM
5	GEM/2026/B/7074777 Dated: 05-01-2026	Power Generator - DG Set (up to 900 KVA)	12/01/2026 at 2:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.	15/01/2026 up to 20:00 PM	15/01/2026 at 20:30 PM
6	GEM/2026/B/7075072 Dated: 05-01-2026	Mortuary Cabinet	12/01/2026 at 3:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.	16/01/2026 up to 10:00 AM	16/01/2026 at 10:30 AM
7	GEM/2026/B/7075103 Dated: 05-01-2026	C Arm Fluoroscope X-Ray Machine	12/01/2026 at 4:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.	16/01/2026 up to 10:00 AM	16/01/2026 at 10:30 AM

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal & UPMSCL website www.upmsc.in. Kindly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates. **Managing Director, UPMSCL**

Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
ROAD DIVISION, DUMKA

E-Procurement Notice

Tender Reference No.- RCD/DUMKA/27 Date 06.01.2026

1	Name of Work-	Widening and Strengthening/Reconstruction of Barmasia PWD Road to Saharghati Road (Total Length - 8.130 Km) under Road Division Dumka for the year 2025-26.
2	Estimated cost(In Rs)	Rs 26,74,58,463.00
3	Time of completion	Seven Months
4	Date of Publication of Tender on Website	20.01.2026 at 10.30 AM
5	Last date/Time for receipt of bids	10.02.2026 Up to 12.00 Noon
6	Date of opening of Tender	11.02.2026 at 12.30 PM
7	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Office of The Executive Engineer Road Construction Department Road Division, Dumka.
8	Contact no. of Procurement Officer	8252424164
9	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer,
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Dumka

PR 370137 Road(25-26)#D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, धनबाद

ई0 निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

निविदा सं0 : DMFT/MIR/DHN/ SBD-01/2025-26, दिनांक 02.01.2026

जिला खनिज फाउण्डेशन ट्रस्ट, धनबाद के न्यास परिषद् धनबाद की बैठक दिनांक 29.11.2025 में लिये गये निर्णय के आलोक में धनबाद जिला के टुण्डी प्रखण्ड के अंतर्गत Renovation of Dhadhkitand M.I. Scheme हेतु पत्रांक 935, दिनांक 18.11.2025 के आलोक में उप विकास आयुक्त सह सचिव DMFT, धनबाद के ज्ञापांक 1123/DMFT धनबाद, दिनांक 30.12.2025 से प्रशासनिक स्वीकृति प्राप्त है।

1	योजना का नाम	Renovation of Dhadhkitand M.I. Scheme, Vill.- Dhadhkitand, Panchyat- Purnadih, Block-Tundi, Dist- Dhanbad.
2	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में)	48672700.00
3	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रूपये में)	10000.00
4	अग्रधन की राशि (रूपये में)	486800.00
5	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	11 माह
6	ऑन लाईन निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	27.01.2026, 12:30 बजे
7	ऑन लाईन निविदा /बीड समर्पित करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	03.02.2026, 5 बजे तक
8	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	05.02.2026, 12:30 बजे
9	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी	कार्यपालक अभियंता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, लूबी सर्कूलर रोड, धनबाद– 826001
10	सम्पर्क सूत्र मोबाईल संख्या	7903299712

नोट :– केवल ई– निविदा हीं मान्य होगी। परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट – बढ़ सकती है । निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा ही स्वीकार्य होगी । विशेष जानकारी के लिए : http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in देखें।

PR 370162 Minor Irrigation(25-26).D

कार्यपालक अभियंता
लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल,धनबाद

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that we are conducting the title due diligence on behalf of our clients with respect to the property described in the Schedule hereto, situated at Thoranahalli Agrahara and Thoranahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District, owned / possessed by M/s. Venus Projects and **M/s. Venus Logy Park Private Limited.** Any person or persons, including an individual, a Hindu Undivided Family, a company, banks, financial institution(s), non- banking financial institution(s), a firm, an association of persons or a body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of Schedule Property having any objection, claim, interest or right, title on the property described in the Schedule written hereunder or any part or portion thereof by way of any litigation(s) pending before any court or tribunal or governmental or statutory authority or by way of inheritance, succession, sale, exchange, mortgage, lien, pledge, gift, trust, bequest, possession, lease, charge, easement, grant, tenancy, maintenance, license, share, assignment, attachment, development rights, right of way, lispendens, reservation, agreement, FSI consumption or any liability or commitment or otherwise or encumbrance or demand of any nature whatsoever is hereby required to intimate the same to the undersigned in writing **within Ten (10) days** from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/its claim, if any, with all supporting documents, failing which the due diligence shall be completed without reference to such claim, and the claims, if any, of such person (s) shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.

THE SCHEDULE REFERRED TO ABOVE

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Extent Acres	Extent Guntas	Boundaries East by: E West by: W North by: N South by: S
1	30/6	-	08.08	E : Survey No. 30/1 W : Survey No. 30/7 N : Survey No. 48 S : Survey No. 30/3
2	31/3	-	14.08	E : Survey No. 31/4 W : Survey No. 31/1 N : Survey No. 30 S : Survey No. 31/2
3	31/4	-	29	E : Survey No. 31/5 W : Survey No. 31/3 N : Survey No. 30 S : Survey No. 31/2
4	31/5	-	14.08	E : Survey No. 31/6 W : Survey No. 31/4 N : Survey No. 30 S : Survey No. 31/2
5	31/6	-	14.08	E : Survey No. 28 W : Survey No. 31/5 N : Survey No. 30 S : Survey No. 31/2
6	32/1	-	05.08	E : Survey No. 32/3 W : Survey No. 39 N : Survey No. 40 S : Survey No. 32/4
7	32/3	-	05.08	E : Survey No. 31 W : Survey No. 32/1 & 32/4 N : Survey No. 40 S : Survey No. 32/5
8	32/4	-	11	E : Survey No.32/3 & 32/5 W : Survey No. 35 N : Survey No. 32/1 S : Survey No. 32/6
9	32/5	-	05.08	E : Survey No. 31 W : Survey No. 32/4 & 32/6 N : Survey No. 32/3 S : Survey No. 32/2
10	40/1	-	04	E : Survey No. 31 W : Survey No. 40/2 N : Survey No. 41 & 42 S : Survey No. 32
11	40/2	-	04	E : Survey No. 40/1 W : Survey No. 40/3 N : Survey No. 41 & 42 S : Survey No. 32
12	40/3	-	08	E : Survey No. 40/2 W : Survey No. 40/4 N : Survey No. 41 & 42 S : Survey No. 32
13	41/3	-	06.12	E : Survey No. 30/2 W : Survey No. 42 N : Survey No. 41/2 S : Survey No. 41/4
14	49/2	-	15.08	E : Survey No. 51/1 & 50/1 W : Survey No. 48/4 & 48/3 N : Survey No. 49/4 S : Survey No. 29
15	49/7	-	13.08	E : Survey No. 51/1 W : Survey No. 48/4 N : Survey No. 49/2 S : Survey No. 49/8
16	49/8	-	15	E : Survey No. 50/1 W : Survey No. 48/3 N : Survey No. 49/7 S : Survey No. 49/9
17	49/9	-	15	E : Survey No. 50/1 W : Survey No. 48/2 & Sy. No 30 N : Survey No. 49/8 S : Survey No. 29
18	49/5	-	34	E : Survey No. 51/1 W : Survey No. 48/2, 48/3 N : Survey No. 51/3 S : Survey No. 49/6
19	49/6	-	16	E : Survey No. 51/1 W : Survey No. 48/2 N : Survey No. 49/5 S : Survey No. 49/3
20	49/3	-	10	E : Survey No. 51/1 W : Survey No. 48/3 N : Survey No. 49/5 S : Survey No. 49/4
21	49/4	-	10	E : Survey No. 51/1 W : Survey No. 48/3 N : Survey No. 49/3 S : Survey No. 49/2
22	51/4	-	26.12	E : Survey No. 4/2 W : Survey No. 49 N : Survey No. 51/5 S : Survey No. 51/1
23	51/5	-	26.12	E : Survey No. 4/2 W : Survey No.49 N : Survey No. 51/6 S : Survey No. 51/4
24	51/6	-	26.12	E : Survey No. 4/2 W : Survey No. 49 N : Survey No. 51/2 & 51/3 S : Survey No. 51/5
25	23/1	03	20	E : Land belonging to Narayanappa W : Kere Angala N : Land belonging to Venkateshappa & Shivanapura Munishyamappa S : Land belonging to Hoskote Srinivas
26	37/1	-	25.08	E : Survey No. 38 W : Survey No. 197 & Thoranahalli Village Boundary N : Survey No. 37/2 S : Survey No. 37/4
27	28/2	-	10	E : Survey No. 7 W : Survey No. 28/1 N : Survey No. 29 S : Survey No. 28/3 & 23
28	42/1	-	07	E : Survey No. 41 W : Survey No. 38 N : Survey No. 43/2 & 43/3 S : Survey No. 42/2
29	29	04	35	E : Land belonging to Thatappa and Banyan Tree W : Land belonging to Gadheappa N : Land belonging to Poovanna S : Kaluve
30	31/1	-	14.08	E : Survey No. 31/3 W : Survey No. 40 & Sy.No 32 N : Survey No. 30 S : Survey No. 31/2
31	32/6	-	05.08	E : Survey No. 32/2 & 32/5 W : Survey No. 35 N : Survey No. 32/4 S : Survey No. 33
32	37/3	-	04.08	E : Survey No. 37/4 W : Survey No. 197 N : Survey No. 37/1 S : Survey No. 37/6
33	37/7	-	06.08	E : Survey No. 37/6 W : Thoranahali Village Boundary N : Survey No. 37/3 & 37/4 S : Survey No. 36
34	43/3	-	05	E : Survey No. 41 W : Survey No. 46 N : Anjinappa's Land S : Anjinappa's Land
35	43/2	-	05	E : Survey No. 41 W : Survey No. 38 N : Survey No. 4 S : Survey No. 3
36	43/4	-	05	E : Survey No. 41 W : Survey No. 38 N : Survey No. 43/2 S : Survey No. 42
37	42/2	-	07	E : Land belonging to Muniyappa W : Land belonging to Venkateshappa N : Land belonging to V. Anjinappa S : Land belonging to Muniyappa
38	42/3	-	06	E : Land belonging to Venkatashamappa W : Land belonging to Venkateshappa N : Land belonging to Muniyappa S : Karabi Kaluve
39	42/4	-	06	E : Land belonging to Venkatashamappa W : Land belonging to Venkatesha Bhatta N : Land belonging to Krishnappa S : Land belonging to V. Anjinappa
40	42/5	-	06	E : Land belonging to Muniyappa W : Land belonging to Venkateshappa N : Land belonging to Venkateshappa S : Land belonging to Munishamappa
41	50/2	-	09	E : Survey No. 50/3 W : Survey No. 50/1 N : Survey No. 51/1 S : Survey No. 29
42	50/3	-	09	E : Survey No. 50/4 W : Survey No. 50/2 N : Survey No. 50/2 S : Survey No. 29
43	50/4	-	09	E : Survey No. 50/5 W : Survey No. 50/3 N : Survey No. 51/1 S : Survey No. 29
44	50/5	-	05	E : Survey No. 4/2 W : Survey No. 50/4 N : Survey No. 51/1 S : Survey No. 29
45	51/1	-	26.12	E : Survey No. 4/2 W : Survey No. 49 N : Sy No. 51/4 S : Survey No. 50/1, 50/2, 50/3, 50/4, 50/5
46	36/1	-	14	E : Land belonging to Balakrishnappa W : Survey No. 197/P1 N : Survey No. 36/1 S : Land belonging to Doddamuniyappa
47	37/5	-	04.04	E : Survey No. 38 W : Survey No. 37/4 N : Survey No. 37/1 S : Survey No. 37/6
48	37/6	-	06.08	E : Survey No. 38 W : Survey No. 37/7 N : Survey No. 37/5 S : Survey No. 36
49	39	-	14	E : Survey No. 32 W : Survey No. 36 N : Survey No. 38 S : Survey No. 35
50	43/1	-	05	E : Survey No. 41 W : Survey No. 38 N : Survey No. 44 S : Survey No. 43
51	137/1	1	20	E : Survey No. 137/3 W : Survey No. 137/2 & 138 N : Survey No.141 & 138 S : Survey No.137/2 & 136
52	40/4	-	04	E : Survey No 40/3 W : Survey No 38 and 39 N : Survey No 41 and 42 S : Survey No. 32
53	293 (old no 197)	-	18	E : Agrahara Boundary W : PWD Road N : Private Land S : Remaining Land
54	136/2	1	30	E : Toranahalli Agrahara boundary W : Road N : Survey No. 136, block I S : Survey No. 197
55	137/2	-	34	E : Survey No. 137/1 W : Survey No. 138 N : Survey No. 137/1 S : Survey No. 136
56	137/3	2	05	E : Toranahalli Agrahara Village Boundary W : Survey No. 137/1 N : Survey No. 138 & 161 S : Survey No. 293

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FoxMandal Solicitors & Advocates

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking
सिंडिकेट Syndicate
BENGALURU

E-AUCTION NOTICE

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION) UNDER RULES 8(6) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein, taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, will be sold by inviting tenders on the following terms & conditions. E auction arranged by the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (BAANKNET) .** through the website **https://BAANKNET.COM//**

Sl. No.	1)Name of the Borrower / Guarantor(s) 2)Name of the Branch and Secured Creditor	1) Secured Debt outstanding 2) Reserve Price 3) Earnest Money Deposit	1) Last date of deposit of EMD 2) Last date of KYC documents 3) EMD Details 4) Bid Factor	1. Date of Auction 2. Time of Auction 3. Date & Time of Inspection
1	**1) BORROWER (S) :** **1. RAVINDRA K M S/O VEERABHADRAIAH** **2. Mr. VINAY KUMAR K R (Guarantor)** **No 1 & 2 Are Residing At :** No 213, R R Layout , Nagadevana Halli ,Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560056. **3.M/s.TOTAL SOLUTIONS** **Represented by Prop. K M RAVINDRA** 28 47 59th Cross 4th N Block ,Rajajinagar Bengaluru ,Bengaluru North ,Karnataka - 560010. **Prop . Mr. Ravindra K M S/o Veerabhadraiah** No.213 , R.r Layout , Nagadevanahalli , Jnanabharathi Post , Bengaluru - 560056. **Also having address at : Mr. Ravindra K M** No 28/47 59 Cross , 4th N Block Rajaji Nagar , Bengaluru ,Karnataka 560010. **MR. Ravindra K M,** No.63, G M Palya, New Thippasandra, Bangalore 562131. And **Mr. Ravindra K M S/o Veerabhadraiah** No.132, 6th Cross, Channasandra Layout Bangalore -560098. **2)** Canara Bank **- SHOOLAY Branch Mob. No. 9449860689**	**1) Rs . 3,18,23,482.04** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.**	**1) 10.02.2026 up to 5.00 PM 2) 10.02.2026 up to 6.00 PM 3)EMD payment to E-Wallet or Through Challan generated in M/S PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) Portal. 4) Rs. 5,00,000/-**	**1. 11.02.2026 2. 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM 3. 09.02.2026 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM**
	Description of the Immovable/ Movable assets: All that piece and parcel of property bearing portion of Site no.16, BBMP Khatha No.1061/1025/32/6/16 situated in Nagadevanahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, within limits of BBMP, Kengeri Sub-Division measuring East to West : Northern side of 50-0 feet, Southern side 44-0 feet and North to South : Eastern side 26.34, Western side 27 feet ,in all measuring 1200 Sq ft. along with RCC Building with all civic amenities and bounded on the; **East by :** 30-0 feet Road, **West by :** Site No.15, **North by :** Northern portion of site No.16 pertains to M V Nagaraj and **South by :** Private Property. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 2,03,17,500/- B) EMD - Rs. 20,31,750/-**			
2	**1) BORROWER (S) :** **1. SRI MARUTHI PUBLIC SCHOOL** Hosapete Road, Magadi, Magadi Taluk Ramanagara Dist, Magadi Taluk, Dod Ballapur, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka-562120. **2. MR. GANGARAJU H H TRUSTEE AND GUARANTOR S/O HONNAIAH C/O SRI VENKATESHWARA I.T.I.** Halevoor Road Tumakuru Kunigal, Tumkur, Karnataka-572123. **3. MRS. VARALAKSHMAMMA K T TRUSTEE AND GUARANTOR W/O GANGARAJU** #16, N E S Layout, Magadi Taluk, Dodballapur Bangalore Rural, Karnataka-562120. **4. MR. ROOPESH G (GUARANTOR) S/O GANGARAJU H H** Honnegowdana, Doddi Huliyurudurga Hobli, Kunigal Rural, Tumkur, Karnataka 572123. **5. MR. SHIVANNA H (GUARANTOR) S/O HONNAIAH,** Honnegowdanadoddi, Tavarekere Post Huliyurdurga Hobali, Kunigal Taluk Thavarekere, TumakuruTavarekere, Karnataka -572123. **6. MR. LOKESH G (GUARANTOR) S/O GANGARAJU H,** No 16, New Extn Magadi, Magadi Tq, Ramanagar Dist,Magadi, Dodballapur, Bangalore Rural,Karnataka 562120 **2)** Canara Bank **- Visweswarapuram Branch Mob. No. 9536399199**	**1) Rs . 7,61,86,135.62** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.**	**1) 10.02.2026 up to 5.00 PM 2) 10.02.2026 up to 6.00 PM 3)EMD payment to E-Wallet or Through Challan generated in M/S PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) Portal. 4) Rs. 5,00,000/-**	**1. 11.02.2026 2. 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM 3. 09.02.2026 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM**
	Description of the Immovable/ Movable assets: **1. All that piece and parcel of land located at Sy. No. 2/4(old Sy. No 2/1) to an extent of 0.06,** bounded by:**East :** Land of applicant (La hi No.9), **West :** Govt Road (La hi 2), **North :** Remaining Land (blank) and **South :** Land of Narasimha Murthy (La Sa No. 1). **All that piece and parcel of land located at Sy. No 9/2 to an extent of 1-15.08, bounded by: East :** Land of Gowramma w/o Late Narayanappa, **West :** Land of Krishnappa, **North :** Land of Gangamma w/o Gangaraju and **South :** Land of Narasimha Murthy. **All that piece and parcel of land located at Sy. No. 9/3 to an extent of 1-05.08 bounded by: East :** Land of Jayamma, **West :** Land of applicant, **North :** Land of Gangaraju and **South :** Land of Narasimha Murthy. **totally measuring 2Acres 27Guntas with new KHATHA No.1/1 &Property No.152900302500920002) located at Somakkana Mutt Village, Kasaba Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagaram Dist. Property bounded by: East :** Land of applicant Gangarau H H, **West :** Govt Road and Land of Krishnappa, **North :** Land of Gangamma W/o Gangaraju and **South :** Land of Narasimha Murthy. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs.19,80,22,000/- B) EMD - Rs.1,98,02,200/-** **2. All that piece and parcel of land extend of 4800Sq Ft with Khatha No 368/3876/4330 (14*40), 369/3877/4331(30*40), 370/3878/4332(16*40), 375/3881/4335/1(10*40), 375/3882/4336(30*40), 376/388/4337(20*40). PID no. 22-12-23 Situated at NES Extention Ward No.2, Magadi Town, Ramnagara Districtmeasuring East to West 18.292682 meters and North to South 24.390243 meters . Property bounded by : East :** Site of Jayamma, **West :** Site of K T Varalakshmamma, **North :** Road and **South :** Road. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs.1,39,20,000/- B) EMD - Rs.13,92,000/-** **3. All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.16, PID No. 17-48-16, formed out of Sy. No. 133/1 of Saneguruvanahalli, situated at 2nd Main, Vinayakanagar, Vrushabhavatinagar, within the jurisdiction of ward no 102 Bengaluru, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet, totally measuring to an extent of 2400Sqft, together with a building thereon and bounded on: East by :** Road, **West by:** Property belongs to Smt N. Venkatalakshmamma, **North by:** Road and **South by:** Property belongs to Sri. Cheluvaraj and Mahadevaiah. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs.2,43,11,000/- B) EMD - Rs.24,31,100/-**			
3	**1) BORROWER (S) :** **1. Narayanaswamy M S/o Munivenkatappa** Masthenahalli (V), Srinivaspur (Tq) Kolar (Dist), Karnataka 563135. **Guarantors/Mortgagors** **1.Sandeep M N S/o Narayanaswamy** **2.Chaitra M N S/o Narayanaswamy** **3.Bhavani M N S/o Narayanaswamy** **4.Sowmya M N S/o Narayanaswamy** **5.Anusha M N S/o Narayanaswamy** **6.Sowbhagya M R W/o Nagarajegowda** **No. 1,2,3,4,5 & 6 are at :** Masthenahalli (V), Srinivaspur (Tq), Kolar (Dist), Karnataka 563135. **Also at : Sowbhagya M R W/o Nagaraje Gowda** Ammerahalli (V), Kondarajanahalli(P), Kasaba Hobli Kolar Taluk & District 563102. **7. Gopalkrishne Gowda S/o muniyappa** c o nagara 02 wrdsr apts, Nagondanahalli Whitefield immedihalli b.o Bangalore Urban, Karnataka 560066. **2)** Canara Bank **- Hitech Agricultural Finance Branch Mob. No. 9483532373, 9797408004, Ph No 080-22223659**	**1) Rs . 3,19,84,580.33** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.**	**1) 29.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM 2) 29.01.2026 up to 6.00 PM 3)EMD payment to E-Wallet or Through Challan generated in M/S PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) Portal. 4) Rs. 5,00,000/-**	**1. 30.01.2026 2. 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM 3. 28.01.2026 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM**
	Description of the Immovable/ Movable assets: **1. All that piece and parcel of agricultural land of 5 Acres at Sy. No. 6/13 at Masthenahalli village, Srinivasapura Tk, Kolar district bounded on East by:** Own property and Proerty 6/P3-P1, **West by:** Property of K Chandramathi and M P Narayanagowda, **North by:** Road and **South by:** Property of Venkateshappa. **1. All that piece and parcel of agricultural land of 5 Acres at Sy. No. 6/P3-P1 at Masthenahalli village, Srinivasapura Tk, Kolar district bounded on. East by:** Property of Shamalamma and H Narayanagowda, **West by:** Own property and Property No. 6/13 Block, **North by:** Road and **South by:** Property of Venkateshappa. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs.4,29,37,000/- B) EMD - Rs.42,93,700/-** **2. All that piece and parcel of residential house building bearing No. 25, E-khatha no. 151901102400100030 measuring East to West 24.384 Meters and North to South 27.1272 Meters at Mastenhalli Village, Velagalaburre Post, Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar Dist bounded on : East by:** Property of Badhrappa, **West by:** Property of Narayanaswamy, **North by:** Property of S Narayanaswamy and **South by:** Property of G M Eragappa. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs.65,79,000/- B) EMD - Rs.6,57,900/-** **3.** 1.All that piece and parcel of residential site bearing no 3, E-Khatha No 151900703400320122 form No.11A Certificate No. 3608562, Khatha No. 54/87/3 measuring East to West 18.288 Meters and North to South 12.192 Meters totally measuring 222.97 Sqmeters at Ammerahalli village, Kondarajanahalli Grama Panchayat, KasabaHobli, Kolar bounded on **East by:** 30 feet Road, **West by:** Property of J Muniswamy, **North by:** Site No. 04 and **South by:** Site No.01 and 02. **2.** All that piece and parcel of residential site bearing no 4, E-Khatha No 151900703400320123 form No.11A Cerificate No. 3608562 measuring East to West 18.288 Meters and North to South 12.192 Meters totally measuring 222.97 Sqmeters at Ammerahalli village, Kondarajanahalli Grama Panchayat, KasabaHobli, Kolar bounded on **East by:** 30 feet Road, **West by:** Property of J Muniswamy, **North by:** Site No. 05 and **South by:** Site No.03. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs.1,96,56,000/- B) EMD - Rs.19,65,600/-**			
4	**1) BORROWER (S) :** **1.Sri. M V Venkataramappa S/o Late Munishami R** Rajendrahalli, Byrakuru Hobli, Mulabagilu Kolar District 563131 **2.Smt. Narayanamma W/o M V Venkataramappa Guarantor :** **3. Sri. Ramesh V S/o M V Venkataramappa No. 2 & 3 are at :** Byrakuru Hobli, Mulabagilu, Kolar District 563131. **2)** Canara Bank **- Hitech Agricultural Finance Branch Mob. No. 9483532373, 9797408004, Ph No 080-22223659**	**1) Rs . 1,39,06,241.72** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.**	**1) 29.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM 2) 29.01.2026 up to 6.00 PM 3) EMD payment to E- Wallet or Through Challan generated in M/S PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) Portal. 4) Rs. 5,00,000/-**	**1. 30.01.2026 2. 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM 3. 28.01.2026 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM**
	Description of the Immovable/ Movable assets: 1. All that piece and parcel of Agricultural land in Old Sy. No 53, New Sy. No. 53/p8-p1 measuring 1 acre and 35 guntas situated at Rajendrahalli village, Byrakur hobli, Mulabagal taluk, Kolar Dist in the name of MV Venkataramappa bounded on, **East by:** Sy. No. 53, **West by:** Sy. No. 53, **North by:** Kunte and **South by:** Survey No. 53 & Road. All that piece and parcel of Agricultural land in Old Sy. No 53, New Sy. No. 280 measuring 2 acres and 20 guntas situated at Rajendrahalli village, Byrakur hobli, Mulabagal taluk, Kolar Dist in the name of Narayanamma bounded on, **East by:** Sy. No. 53, **West by:** Sy. No. 53, **North by:** Kunte and **South by:** Survey No. 53 & Road. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs.1,80,90,000/- B) EMD - Rs. 18,09,000/-** **2.** All that piece and parcel of Residential vacant site No. 97, bearing V.P. Khata No. 353/97, E –Khatha No.151900902600320807 (40*30 ft), at Sri SaiLakshmi Enclave, Opp. Sri Sai Vidya International School, Avani-Hobli & Grama Panchayath, Mulbagal taluk, Kolar – Dist. in the name of guarantor V Ramesh Bounded by : **East by:** Site No. 89, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Site No. 98 and **South by:** Site No. 96. Residential vacant site No. 89, bearing V.P. Khata No. 353/89, E –Khatha No.151900902600320814 (40*37 ft), at Sri SaiLakshmi Enclave, Opp. Sri Sai Vidya International School, Avani-Hobli & Grama Panchayath, Mulbagal taluk, Kolar – Dist. in the name of guarantor V Ramesh, **East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No. 96& 97, **North by:** Site No. 88 and **South by:** Road Residential vacant site No. 79, bearing V.P. Khata No. 353/79, E –Khatha No.151900902600320753 (40*41 ft), at Sri SaiLakshmi Enclave, Opp. Sri Sai Vidya International School, Avani-Hobli & Grama Panchayath, Mulbagal taluk, Kolar – Dist. in the name of guarantor V Ramesh, **East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No. 107, **North by:** Private Property and **South by:** Site No. 80. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs.62,50,000/- B) EMD - Rs. 6,25,000/-**			

For all details contact at Regional Office, MG Road, Bangalore. Contact Numbers - 1) 79074 16232, 2) 70107 03787

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please logon to our website **www.canarabank.com** under "E-Auction" or contact the branch.

Place: Bangalore, Date : 06.01.2026 **Authorized Officer, Canara Bank**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಹಾಸನ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹಾಸನ

HASSAN INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, HASSAN (An Autonomous Institute under the Dept of Medical Education, Government of Karnataka) SRI CHAMARAJENDRA HOSPITAL CAMPUS, HASSAN

Website: https://himshassan.karnataka.gov.in/
Phone/Fax No.08172-231699, 231599,
Email:directorhims@yahoo.com

No:HIMS/TS/CRK/1/2025-TNDR-HIMS-HSN Date: 03.01.2026

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement only) https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

HIMS, Hassan, invites tender for supply of Chemicals, Reagents, Discs & Glassware to Central Lab and other department of HIMS Teaching Hospital, Hassan, from the manufacturer or authorized dealers in two cover bid system as per KTTP Act-1999. Sl.No.01)Tender Particulars:Chemicals, Reagents, Discs & Glassware EMD(Rs.)1,75,000-00 Estimated Cost:1,75,00,000-00 The Supplier can have access to e-tender documents from 06.01.2026 through website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on payment of transaction fee (non-refundable) as fixed by e-portal. Last date for submission of tender application is up to 20.01.2026 5:00 p.m,. For further details contact the undersigned in the office during working hours or through website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Administrative officer, Hassan Institute of Medical Science, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/910/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Division, Athani - 591304. Taluk: Athani, Dist: Belagam.

No:KNNL/HBC/PB/TND/Overhauling/2025-26/3293 Date: 05-01-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION - (CALL-3)
(Through KPP Portal Only)

Tenders in Electronic mode on "Percentage Basis" are invited on behalf of the **Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru,** by the **Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Division, Athani** in Two Cover System **(Cover-I and Cover-II),** from the eligible tenderer **Transformer Manufacturer / Transformer Service.**

The details of the works are listed below. The tenderers are required to submit bid in Two Cover System. As per **Standard Bid Document of KC-6.**

The contractors are expected to apply in Two Cover System (as per KTTP Act 2000) i.e. Technical Bid & Financial Bid.

The blank tender documents can be obtained through Website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kpp-portal/index.seam** under H.B.C. Division, Athani. **(Total 1 Works)**

The Approximate Estimated Cost of Work is Rs. 68.99 Lakhs

1) The contractor can request for e-Tendering Documents: **from 07-01-2026 at 10.30 AM to 14-01-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 2)** Last Date and Time for Tender Queries: **12-01-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 3)** Last Date for Submission of Completed e-Tendering Document: **from 07-01-2026 at 10.30 AM to 14-01-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid at EE, KNNL, HBC Division, Athani: **16-01-2026 at 11.00 AM. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid at EE, KNNL, HBC Division, Athani: **After Approval of Technical Bid.**

Any other information can be had from the undersigned during the office hours on Telephone: **08289-251034** and H.P company helpline: **080-22485867.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KNNL, HBC Division, Athani.

DIPR/Belagavi/1596/Adverto/2025-26

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No.IDCO/HO-P&A/A-10404/01/2025/V-6/ 261 Date : 03.01.2026

BID IDENTIFICATION NO. P&A/EST/E-02/2025-26

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL OF GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) invites technical and financial proposals from reputed Manpower / Human Resource agency having a registered Office/ Branch Office must be located within the jurisdictional area of Bhubaneswar, Odisha and experience in providing manpower of various backgrounds (engineering, management, legal, environment, architecture etc.) in Odisha and across India.

The detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) document can be downloaded from e-procurement portal of Government of Odisha from **5 PM of 08.01.2026 to 5 PM of 30.01.2026**. Interested applicants are requested to send their queries by **16.01.2026 by 4 pm** in the email id (**cgmpa@idco.in**). The last date of receipt of technical and financial bids through e-procurement portal of Government of Odisha is **30.01.2026 till 5 PM**.

The cost of bid document is **₹11,800/-** and is to be paid online. The technical bids will be opened online on **31.01.2026 at 12.00 PM.** IDCO reserves the right to accept or reject the Notice/ RFP without assigning any reasons thereof.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement Portal, **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and **www.idco.in**.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&A)

CAD-2948: OIPR-14003/11/0283/2526

K-tech

STARTUP KARNATAKA

HIRING OF MANPOWER

No.: KITS/IT/ **Date: 07.01.2026**

The Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), under the Department of Electronics, IT & Bt, Government of Karnataka, serves as the nodal agency for implementing the Department Policies and spearheading innovation and technology initiatives in the State. KITS invites applications from qualified and eligible candidates for the following positions:

Sl. No.	Designation & Salary	Qualifications & Experience	Last date to apply/ Applications to be sent to
1	Assistant Manager - BT **No. of Post - 1** Rs.45,000/- month. (Rs.5,40,000/- per Annum)	BE in Biotechnology / Post Graduate in the area of Biotechnology or Life Sciences with 3 years of work experience	15 days from the date of advertisement **https://forms.gle/iAVnnk8T7ZQjg1WZA**
2	Assistant Manager - 2 (IT) **No. of Post - 1** Rs.45,000/- month. (Rs.5,40,000/- per Annum)	Full-time MBA/PGDM/ PGDBA or BE/BSc/MSc/ B.Com/M.com with 3 years of work experience	15 days from the date of advertisement **https://forms.gle/n1SMFnMJfVxUwLc2A**
3	Asst. Manager - Startups **Age Limit:** Below 35 years as on last date of application. **No. of Post - 1** Rs. 45,000/- p.m (Consolidated)	Full-time Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/Science/ Management or equivalent OR Master's Degree in Management, Public Policy or equivalent from a recognized Inst. with min. 3 yrs of professional work experience.	15 days from the date of advertisement **https://forms.gle/1W8A6CHY1tiP3hNt5**

The deadline for submission of application up to **22/01/2026, 5:00 PM.**

Details regarding professional experience, skills & competencies, and the detailed job description are available on the Department website: **https://eitbt.karnataka.gov.in/217/recruitment/en**

The recruitment shall be made on a contractual basis for a period of 11 months.

Note : Any further extension of the deadline, If applicable, will be notified on the Department's official website: **https://eitbt.karnataka.gov.in/217/recruitment/en.**

Sd/-
Managing Diector
KITS

DIPR/CP/4869/AKAR/2025-26

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire, # 59 Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru – 560020
Phone: 080-2223-1006 / 8. E-mail: itbt.kitshr@gmail.com

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ (ಘವನಿ), ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ – 580029.

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ
1	DMA/2025-26/SE7009	65,53,575.00	1,31,071.00	16–01–2026 ಸಮಯ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ	17–01–2026 ಸಮಯ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆ
2	DMA/2025-26/SE7013	58,25,400.00	1,16,508.00		
3	DMA/2025-26/SE7014	50,97,225.00	1,01,944.00		
4	DMA/2025-26/SE7015	36,40,875.00	91,022.00		
5	DMA/2025-26/SE7016	65,53,575.00	1,31,071.00		
6	DMA/2025-26/SE7021	49,38,300.00	98,766.00		

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **07–01–2026** ರಿಂದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಗೆ ಲಾಗಿನ್ ಆಗಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಳ ಸಹಿದಾರರ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆಲಸದ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಘವನಿ)
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/1071/ಅಡ್ವರ್ಟೈ/2025–26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
	Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.	
	IFT No.:BWSSB/EIC/CE(W)/ACE(W)-2/DCE(M)-2/TA(W)/6663/2025-26	**Date:06.01.2026**
1	Conducting detailed survey of closed drains, primary and secondary drains to stop the flow of sewage and Providing and laying of 300mm dia DWC and 230mm dia SW pipe line to avoid direct entry of sewarage into Dasarahalli Lake and linking of existing sewer line to sub main inside SWD at various locations pertaining to AEENW-2 Sub Division **(Call-2).**	**Rs. 152.02 Lakhs** **Rs. 2.29 Lakhs**
	IFT No.:BWSSB/EIC/CE(W)/ACE(W)-2/DCE(M)-2/TA(W)/6664/2025-26	**Date:06.01.2026**
2	Conducting detailed survey of closed drains, primary and secondary drains to stop the flow of sewage and Providing and laying of 300mm DWC line & 230mm dia SW line of avoiding sewage flow to SWD pertains to AEENW-1 Sub Division **(Call-2).**	**Rs.154.51 Lakhs** **Rs. 2.32 Lakhs**
	For the above works, Last date for receipt of tenders: **21.01.2026 upto 17:00 Hrs.** The Tenders will be opened on: **22.01.2026 after 17.30 Hrs.**	
	Sd/- Chief Engineer(West)	
	Office of the Chief Engineer (Central), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.	
	IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(Central)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/23/2025-26	**Date:06.01.2026**
3	Providing and laying of RCC NP-3 class sewer line from Halasuru Lake outlet (Opposite to Gurudwara) to Annaswamy Mudaliar Road (Opposite to RBANMS College) along Halasuru lake bund, Halasuru **(Call-2).**	**Rs. 208.89 Lakhs** **Rs. 3.13 Lakhs**
	IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(Central)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/24/2025-26	**Date:06.01.2026**
4	Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance of 90 MLD STP at Bellandur for a period of 5 years **(Call-3).**	**Rs. 1471.34 Lakhs** **Rs. 15.00 Lakhs**
	IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(Central)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/25/2025-26	**Date:06.01.2026**
5	Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance of 60 MLD Used Water Treatment Plant based on ASP and BNR Technology with Power generation at K&C valley and 120 MLD Intermediate sewege pumping station (ISPS) at Agaram, and 18 MLD ISPS at Sarakki indluding 16.4 km Raw Sewege Pumping Main from Sarakki ISPS, Agaram ISPS to K&C Valley and Bellandur STP for 5 years **(Call-2).**	**Rs. 3098.16 Lakhs** **Rs. 30.98 Lakhs**
	For the above works, Last date for receipt of tenders: **13.01.2026 upto 16:00 Hrs.** The Techical bids will be opened on: **14.01.2026 at 17.00 Hrs.**	
	Sd/- Chief Engineer(Central)	
	The details regarding the tender and participatin in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.	
	DIPR/CP/JA/4884/2025-26	

PUBLIC NOTICE

01. SMT. RATHNAMMA @ RATHNA, W/o Late K. V. Jayaraju, aged about 70 Years, and
02. SMT. UMA, D/o Late K.V. Jayaraju, C/o Gopal Krishnam Raju, aged about 50 years, both residing at No. S-008, 'PIONEER PARADISE', 24th Main Road, J. P. Nagar, 7th Phase, BENGALURU - 560 078,
03. SMT. D. USHA, W/o K.N. Damodar Raju D/o Sri. K.V. Jayaraju, aged about 46 years, residing at #402, Sai Palace, 17th Main, BOB Colony, Behind Wood rosé Club, J. P. Nagar, 7th Phase, BENGALURU - 560 078 and
04. SMT. ASHA J. W/o K. Neela Krishnam Raju D/o Sri. K.V. Jayaraju, aged about 42 years, residing at No.54/55, Flat No.003, Sri Sai Nilayam, 7th Main, Puttenahalli, J.P. Nagar, 7th Phase, BENGALURU - 560 078,

Herein, being the absolute owners of the property mentioned in the Schedule hereunder, states that the original GIFT DEED dated 23-10-2008 executed by Late Sri. K.V.Jayaraju S/o Late Venkataswamy Raju, registered as Document No. 4168/2008-09, in Book I, stored in C D No. JPND 34 and RECTIFICATION DEED dated 04-11-2009 registered as Document No. 1-03825-2009-10, in Book I, stored in C D No. JPND 54, both in the Office of Sub Registrar, J.P Nagar, Bangalore, were misplaced/lost. In this regard lodged a complaint in the J P Nagar Police Station, Bangalore.

If any person, traced and in custody/possession of it, requested to return / handed over to us or to the Police Station.

Furthermore, if they were not traced with in SEVEN days, it will be deemed that the aforesaid documents were misplaced / lost. Based on the said documents, no person claim right, title or interest in respect of the property.

Issued on this the 5th day of January, 2026 at Bengaluru.

[RATHNAMMA @ RATHNA]
[UMA]
[D. USHA]
[ASHA J.]

Thilak Raj S.V., Advocate
No.47, Karthika Nilaya, 25th Main, Opp. BOB, Girinagar, "T" Block, Bengaluru-560085
Date : 03-01-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that the original General Power of Attorney (GPA) dated 25/05/2012, executed between Zara Khan and Usama Zeeshan, concerning the property located at No. 9/4, 2nd Cross, Hennur Main Road, Bengaluru 560084, has been lost/misplaced and is not traceable.

A report regarding the loss has been lodged at the K.G Halli P.S on 05/01/2026 vide Report No. 1993740/2026.

All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transactions with anyone on the basis of the said missing document. Any dealings with the said GPA document will be considered null and void.

If found, kindly contact at the below-mentioned mobile within 7 days from this publication. Syed Samiulla +91 9886023858 Bengaluru

IRSHAD AHMED. K
ANWAR SULTANA ADVOCATES
No.23, 1st Floor, Dispensary Road, Bangalore - 560 001, M: 93419 06010

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the Notice of General Public that our Client is intending to Purchase immovable property bearing No.04, EPID No. 6714587098, situated at Nandanavanam 'G' Street, Jogupalya, Ulsoor, Bangalore-560008, measuring E-W: 25 Ft. & N-S: 60 Ft. totally measuring 1500 Sq.ft. and bounded on the East By: Property No. 3, West By: Road, North By: Road, South By: Property No. 5 from its Owner A. KRISHNAPPA, S/o., Late Ajjappa, No. 1475, South End B Road, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-69. Any person/s having objections to the said transactionscan register their claim/s with documentary evidence with the undersigned within 15 days of Publication hereof, failing which, our Client will proceed with the transactions and received thereafter will not be entertained.

H.V.NAVEEN KUMAR RAO
& H.V.SUNIL KUMAR RAO
ADVOCATES.
No.57, 1st Floor, Veerapillai Street, Bengaluru-560001, Mob: 9341380225

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARY

Thiru.K.VENKATAKRISHNAN
Asst. commandant General,
Area Commander Retd.
Chennai City Home Guards.
Recipient of President's Medal and Chief Minister's Medal.
Chief Water Analyst,
King Institute Guindy
07th January

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY
Mr. V. Govind Prasad,
Dr. V. Meenakshi,
Mr. V. Vijayaraghavan,
Mrs. Karthika Vijayaraghavan
Mrs. Indira Gandhi
Mr. G. Ramesh and all
his Beloved Family & Friends

REMEMBRANCE

7th May 7th January
Lt.C.SUNDARAMOORTHY I.A.S
Mrs.MEENAKSHI SUNDARAMOORTHY
Honesty Personified IAS Officer of TN
Former Member TNPSC, War Verteran
Commendation Award Recipient
Devoted Obedient Wife, Loving Divine Mother
Every Cell, thought is filled with you both
We are proud to be your daughters
S.Vijayalakshmi MA B.Ed Dr.S.Ushalakshmi MD FMMC

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GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY

Office of the Executive Engineer, Division-1, Project Implementation Unit,
9th Floor, Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560011.

No: EE-1/GBA/PIU/TEND/05/2025-26 Date:06.01.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Executive Engineer -1, Project Implementation Unit invites Request for Proposal from interested persons / firms those who have done similar nature of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for "Construction of flood protection structures to SWD including RCC Retaining walls, Water retention structures, Nature based solution structures/Bridges and culverts under Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Programme (KWSRP) with externally funded projects (World Bank) in Rajarajeshwari nagar zone Package-2". (Call 2). **Amount Put to Tender (Works) : Rs. 18,532.29 Lakhs, EMD Amount : Rs. 2,78,000/-**
2.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for "Construction of Flood Protection Structures to Storm Water Drain including RCC Retaining walls, Water retention Structures, Nature Based Solutions Structures, Culverts and Bridges Under Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Program (KWSRP) With Externally Funded Project World Bank In Mahadevapura Package 03 of Mahadevapura Zone (Call 2). **Amount Put to Tender (Works): Rs. 9085.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount : Rs. 1,81,700/-**
3.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for "Construction of Flood Protection Structures to Storm Water Drain including RCC Retaining walls, Water retention Structures, Nature Based Solutions Structures, Culverts and Bridges Under Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Program (KWSRP) With Externally Funded Project World Bank In Mahadevapura Package04 of Mahadevapura Zone (Call 2). **Amount Put to Tender (Works): Rs.8500.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount : Rs. 1,70,200/-**
4.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for "Providing retention tanks at vulnerable locations and parks, tender sure roads in order to avoid flooding with appropriate system to dissipate the water after rains and providing check dams along the flow of water in SWD to avoid flooding during flash rains at downstream to enhance the Ground water table in East, West, South, Yelahanka, Mahadevapura, Bommanahalli, R R Nagara and Dasarahalli zone (Call 3). **Amount Put to Tender (Works): Rs.423.50 Lakhs, EMD Amount : Rs.50,000/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender Document may be downloaded through E-portal form : **06.01.2026 (2)** Pre-bid Meeting : **08.01.2026 at 4.00 PM** Office of the Chief Engineer, Project Implementation Unit, 9th Floor, Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011. **(3)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders: **14.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM (4)** Opening of Technical Bid : **16.01.2026 at 5.30 PM.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Divison-1
Project Implementation Unit, Greater Bengaluru Authority

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LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. Which global bestseller by Paulo Coelho follows a shepherd boy's journey in search of treasure and self-discovery?
2. Who authored the influential essay 'Politics and the English Language', a sharp critique of vague, misleading, and manipulative prose?
3. One of India's oldest public libraries, the Connemara Public Library, is located in which part of Chennai?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit https://newsth.live/LFLQUIZ to take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Mother Mary Comes to Me | 2. Silappadikaram
3. Treasure Island

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Ruchita Sunny Gawde, Mumbai | 2. Prabhakar.S, Chennai
3. Mohd Kaif, Nuh

Siddaramaiah to break Urs's tenure record today

The former's welfare schemes, branded 'Bhagya' schemes during his first term and as the five guarantees in the present, have earned him the reputation as 'champion of the poor'

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Seventy-eight-year-old Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Wednesday will become the longest-serving Chief Minister of Karnataka by eclipsing the record held by his role model and the party's social justice icon D. Devaraj Urs.

Urs held the post for two terms and was in office for seven years and 239 days. While Urs served as the Chief Minister from 1972 to 1977 and from 1978 to 1980, Mr. Siddaramaiah has been holding the post since May 2023, after serving a full term during 2013-18.

Siddaramaiah, who also handles the Finance portfolio, already holds a record of presenting the highest number (16) of State Budgets till now. FILE PHOTO

Both from Mysuru

Both backward classes leaders hail from Mysuru, and both have been able to connect with the last man in the social hierarchy through pro-poor schemes. S. Nijalingappa of the Congress now stands third on the list, having served two terms, for seven years and 175 days.

While the implementation of land reforms during Urs's tenure was considered a game-changer and revolutionary move in redistribution of lands, Mr. Siddaramaiah's welfare schemes, branded "Bhagya" schemes during his first term and as five "guarantees" in the present, earned him the reputation as "champion of the poor".

Multiple research studies have shown that the guarantee schemes have contributed to women's financial autonomy, access to basic services, and overall household well-being. In addition to the earlier three socio-political revolutions in Karnataka - land reforms, reservation, and decentralisation - the Bhagyas/guarantees are considered the fourth passive revolution after the reorganisation of the State.

As Finance Minister

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who also handles the Finance portfolio, already holds a record of presenting the highest number (16) of State Budgets till now.

The 16th Budget (2025-26) presented by him, crossed the outlay of ₹4 lakh crore (₹4,09,549 crore) mark.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who served as the Deputy Chief Minister twice, has been a member of the Legislative Assembly for eight terms, although not continuously. Mr. Siddaramaiah did not continue in the office immediately after completing his first term, as the Congress failed to muster a majority in the 2018 elections. Following a hung verdict, the Congress-JD(S) coalition government was formed, which subsequently collapsed, after more than a dozen of Congress and JD(S) MLAs crossed over to the BJP, enabling it to rule from 2019 to 2023.

Amid the leadership tussle with his deputy and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, who belongs to the dominant Vokkaliga community, backward class organisations have already begun the celebrations to mark Mr. Siddaramaiah's achievements to consolidate the AHINDA (acronym for minorities, backward classes and Dalits) platform, his major political support base.

It was as part of this AHINDA legacy that Mr. Siddaramaiah introduced The Karnataka Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (Planning, Allocation and Utilisation of Financial Resources) Act, 2013, in his first tenure. He implemented internal reservation during his second tenure, though it now faces legal challenges. The first-ever caste survey of Karnataka was held during his first tenure, but was not accepted by successive governments for various political compulsions. A second survey held during his second tenure is due for submission.

Ups and downs

Political journeys are seldom linear, and Mr. Siddaramaiah's career too has been marked by dramatic twists and turns over four decades of his political career.

Born into an underprivileged family of the shepherd community (Kuruba, an OBC caste), Mr. Siddaramaiah, who began his career as a lawyer, entered the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in 1983 from the Chamundeshwari constituency in Mysuru. In the mid-term polls in 1985, he was re-elected from the same constituency and became the Minister for Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services in the Ramakrishna Hegde government.

Mr. Siddaramaiah served in various capacities in successive governments of the Janata Dal, including as Deputy Chief Minister in the J.H. Patel government in 1996 and the Leader of the Opposition during the BJP regime. He was upset with the Janata Dal (Secular) supremo and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, who was reluctant to back him for the Chief Minister's post in 2004. After being expelled from the JD(S) in 2005, Mr. Siddaramaiah joined the Congress in 2006. He served a brief stint as Deputy Chief Minister in the first Janata Dal (S)-Congress coalition government (2004-05). ssIt has often been said that while Mr. Siddaramaiah remained an unchallenged leader in his first term, it has been less so in the second. The alleged irregularities in Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) land allotment to his family members is among the factors contributing to it.

Two lead-ups

While a historic 320-km padayatra from Bengaluru to Ballari against alleged illegal mining activities of the Reddy brothers (BJP) and their associates was among the major factors that led to the Congress victory in 2013, a decade later, the alleged corruption during the previous BJP government and five "guarantees" promised by the Congress are considered as the driving forces that installed the party in power in 2023.

On both occasions, Mr. Siddaramaiah ended up holding the coveted post. Now, amid talk on the change of leadership, whether Mr. Siddaramaiah will complete the full five-year term remains to be seen.

'Confident of completing full term, but decision left to high command'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU/BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who equalled former Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs' record of longest tenure as Chief Minister of Karnataka on Tuesday (January 6, 2026), expressed confidence of completing the ensuing term of the Assembly at the helm.

Replying to queries from reporters in Mysuru, Mr. Siddaramaiah, however, said a decision on completing the current term will depend on the decision of the party high command.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah signs a poster in Mysuru on Tuesday. M.A. SRIRAM

Meeting Venugopal

With regard to his meeting with All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K.C. Venugopal in Mysuru on Monday, Mr. Siddaramaiah said Mr. Venugopal was travelling from Wayanad to Delhi via Bengaluru and the two leaders had a courtesy meeting in Mysuru. With regard to the proposed Cabinet reshuffle, Mr. Siddaramaiah said he would take it up when he receives a call from Delhi.

He further said his aim was not to break any record. "This record has happened coincidentally. I did not even know how many years Devaraj Urs had governed. With the blessings of the people, it has been possible to equal his record."

Expressing satisfaction over his long political career, Mr. Siddaramaiah said working for the people gives him happiness. "Politics means working for the poor, Dalits, and backward classes," he said.

He said he initially aspired to become an MLA and became one. Later, he got opportunities to become a Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Leader of the Opposition, and Chief Minister. "All this was possible because I got opportunities," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

'All the best'

In Bengaluru, when his reaction was sought to Mr. Siddaramaiah's assertion of completing his term, his deputy D.K. Shivakumar, who is vying for the top post, said, "I wish Mr. Siddaramaiah well. I wish him all the best and good luck."

Asked if his statement would not create confusion, he said, "You (media) are confusing it, there is no confusion amongst us."

Opposition attacks CM over tenure record, claims widespread failures in governance

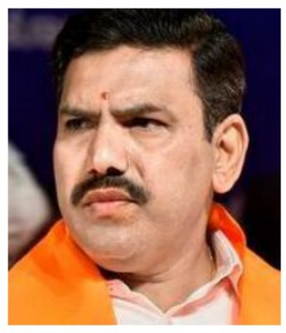
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP and the JD(S) on Tuesday mounted a sharp political attack on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, questioning the significance of his record tenure in office and alleging widespread failures in governance during his years in power.

In a post on X, the BJP described the number of days Mr. Siddaramaiah spent in office as "days of misgovernance rather than achievement". The party alleged that the State had seen rising corruption, mounting debt, and a lack of visible development. It claimed that law and order had deteriorated, schools were in a poor state, and government recruitment processes had stalled.

The BJP further alleged that crimes against women had increased, farmers' suicides were being under-

H.D. Kumaraswamy


B.Y. Vijayendra

reported, and unemployment had worsened across Karnataka. It also blamed the government for a sharp rise in the prices of essential commodities and accused it of pursuing excessive appeasement politics. Referring to alleged irregularities, the party cited controversies ranging from the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) to the waqf board, and said these symbolised the government's record.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra described Mr. Siddaramaiah's record as an "illusion," nothing to do with quality of administration and commitment for which Urs was known for.

"Devaraj Urs was a legendary leader who brought in land reforms and stopped the system of carrying night soil on head. He had a strong hold on administration through which he was able to provide pro-people administration. But Mr. Siddaramaiah became Chief Minister only by fluke," he claimed.

Joining in the criticism, former Chief Minister and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said the Chief Minister's record "deserves to be buried, not celebrated", questioning the merit of claims about breaking the tenure record of former Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs.

"Karnataka, which once stood as a testimony to good governance, has today become an example of inefficiency and poor administration," Mr. Kumaraswamy said, alleging that the Chief Minister's long stint in office had turned him into a "textbook example of bad governance."

Alleging a breakdown of law and order, the Union Minister claimed that corruption, murder, extortion, drug-related activities, and honour killings had continued unchecked.

'Gali's act of tearing Valmiki banner triggered violence'

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar claimed that the violent clash between Congress and BJP workers in Ballari on January 1, which resulted in the death of a Congress activist, was triggered by the act of MLA for Gangavati Gali Janardhan Reddy and his supporters tearing down banners related to the unveiling of a Maharshi Valmiki statue.

Addressing the media in Ballari after meeting the family of slain Congress activist Rajashekhar Reddy, the Deputy Chief Minister said that law would take its own course and that no one would be shielded from accountability. He was accompanied by district In-charge Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, Ballari MLA Nara Bharath Reddy, and other Congress leaders.

"I am neither defending nor targeting anyone," the Deputy Chief Minister said, adding that the police had taken timely and appropriate action to control the situation.

Justifying the installation of banners near Mr. Janardhana Reddy's residence, Mr. Shivakumar said putting up banners in public places ahead of major public events was a common and accepted practice. He said if there were objections, the matter could have been resolved through civic authorities or the police.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar with the family of slain Congress worker Rajashekhar Reddy in Ballari on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"If there was any objection to the banners featuring Maharshi Valmiki, they could have approached the Corporation Commissioner or the police. Instead, the banners were torn down, and that act provoked the violence," he said.

Referring to a fact-finding report prepared by the Congress, he said a grand programme had been planned for the unveiling of the Maharshi Valmiki statue, with widespread support from the community.

"Unable to tolerate the scale of public support and the prominence of the programme, the banners bearing Maharshi Valmiki's image were torn down," he said.

He dismissed Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's claim that the post-mortem of the deceased activist was conducted twice as "completely false."

Five days after Ballari SP suspended, no replacement yet

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Five days after the Superintendent of Police of Ballari was suspended over a law and order disturbance in the district, the State government is yet to post his replacement.

Eyebrows raised

Leaving the Ballari District Police headless for five days at such a crucial time has raised eyebrows.

Pavan Nejjur, who earlier served as SP, Lokayukta, Ballari, was posted as SP, Ballari on the night of December 31, 2025.

He took charge on January 1, 2026. However, hours later, a clash broke out between the supporters of Ballari City Congress MLA N. Bharath Reddy and Gangavati BJP MLA G. Janardhana Reddy and a Congress worker died, hit by a bullet.

A day later, on January 2, Mr. Nejjur was suspended for alleged dereliction of duty, pending a departmental enquiry (DE).

The Superintendent of Police of the neighbouring Chitradurga district is holding additional charge of the district since then, even as the State government is not yet able to find Mr. Nejjur's replacement. Why the government is taking so long to find a replacement remains a mystery.

Consultations on

A senior police official said that consultations were on and the posting would be made soon, after concurrence with the Home Minister and the Chief Minister. Moreover, the range Chief Deputy Inspector General (DIG) is also stationed in Ballari district, another senior officer pointed out.

However, many, including former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, have questioned why there has been no action against the DIG as well. Given there was a political clash that soon snowballed into a law and order crisis and there was gun violence, police leadership is key to bring the situation under control and ensure it doesn't flare up again.

VB-G RAM G: BJP to take up a campaign from Jan. 15

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alleging that the Congress had embarked on a vicious and misleading campaign on the new The Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra on Tuesday announced that the BJP would take up a campaign in Karnataka from January 15 to 18 to create awareness about the new legislation.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Mr. Vijayendra maintained that the new legislation had been brought in as the process of implementation of the erstwhile MGNREGA Act had seen corruption and misuse of the provisions of the Act.

Denying allegations that the BJP had insulted Mahatma Gandhi by changing the name of the scheme, he maintained that there was no question of insulting personalities like Gandhiji or B.R. Ambedkar.

The main intention of the new scheme was to bring about infrastructure development, he said.

BJP local leaders resolve to go it alone in elections to local bodies in Mandya

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Close on the heels of the JD (S) national president H.D. Deve Gowda indicating that the alliance of the JD (S) with the BJP would not apply for the forthcoming elections to local bodies, the BJP leaders of Mandya have told the party State leadership that they would go it alone in the local body polls in the district, which is represented in Lok Sabha by alliance candidate and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

Briefing presspersons after a meeting of the BJP district core committee meeting that had been called by the party State leadership in Bengaluru to discuss the party's preparations for the local body polls, BJP leader Chidananda said the district leaders had unanimously resolved to fight the local body polls independently.

District tour

He even said that the party district unit would organise a district tour of prominent leaders to strengthen the party unit ahead of the polls.

JD(S) chief H.D. Deve Gowda had earlier indicated that the JD(S)-BJP alliance would not apply for elections to local bodies. FILE PHOTO

BJP leader and former Minister Narayana Gowda expressed concern that the JD(S) had decided to go it alone thought the BJP had campaigned hard for Mr. Kumaraswamy during the Lok Sabha polls.

In a diplomatic stand, former MP Sumalatha said the district unit would abide by whatever decision is taken by the party State and Central leadership.

INBRIEF

Former Kerala Minister V.K. Ebrahim Kunju passes away

V.K. Ebrahim Kunju, senior leader of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) and former Minister for Public Works, died in Kochi on Tuesday. The death occurred around 3.40 p.m. at VPS Lakeshore Hospital, where he was admitted on January 4. His mortal remains will be interred at the Alangad Juma Masjid graveyard on Wednesday. A four-time member of the Kerala Assembly, Mr. Kunju represented Ernakulam's Kalamassery constituency from 2011 to 2021.

No offline quota of SriVani darshan tickets from Jan. 9

In a move aimed at ensuring the convenience of pilgrims, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams has announced a major overhaul of the SriVani Darshan ticketing system. The tickets, hitherto issued through offline counters at Tirumala, will now be made available via a daily online current booking system on a pilot basis for a month, beginning January 9. These tickets will be released daily at 9 am and remain available until 2 pm, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Accused aimed to steal more gold from Sabarimala: SIT

The special investigation team (SIT) probing the alleged misappropriation of gold from the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple, in a report to the Kerala High Court, said key persons arrayed as accused in the case conspired to steal more gold from the temple. Three accused held a secret meeting in Bengaluru after the case came up for hearing in October 2025. The SIT made these submissions while opposing the bail plea of the accused, Bellari-based jeweller Govardhan.

Stampede case: TVK chief Vijay called for questioning

The CBI re-registered the case on the directions of the Supreme Court on October 13

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has summoned Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president Vijay for questioning on January 12 in connection with the Karur stampede case. Mr. Vijay has been asked to join the probe at the agency's headquarters. The CBI re-registered the case on the directions of the Supreme Court on October 13. Stating that the tragedy had "shaken the national conscience", the court ordered a probe by the central agency into the stampede that claimed 41 lives during a rally organised by the TVK.

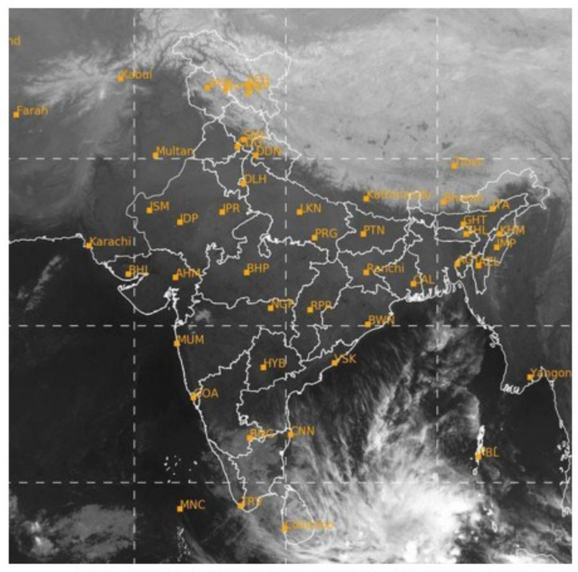
Vijay has been asked to join probe at the agency's headquarters.

The court observed that the incident had "left an imprint in the minds of citizens across the country" and the kin of the deceased had knocked on its "doors" seeking an "unbiased" investigation. It also constituted a three-member monitoring committee chaired by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ajay Rastogi, to supervise the progress of the CBI investigation.

Noting that entrusting the probe to the same police force whose senior officials had publicly exonerated their subordinates would compromise the credibility of the investigation, the court said: "This fact in itself creates a doubt in the minds of the general public about the independence and impartiality of the investigation... Caught in the doldrums are the families of the deceased, injured victims and kith and kin of those who lost their lives in this tragedy. For them, the political tussle between the two sides is of little solace".

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Dense fog likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim and West Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	21.4	14.2	Kozhikode	—	33.2	22.6
Ahmedabad	—	26.2	13.4	Kurnool	—	30.4	17.9
Aizawl	—	22.0	9.0	Lucknow	—	14.8	7.0
Allahabad	—	18.0	6.0	Madurai	—	32.0	23.2
Bengaluru	—	25.1	16.6	Mangaluru	—	32.5	20.9
Bhopal	—	21.8	3.8	Mumbai	—	32.3	20.0
Bhubaneswar	—	23.0	12.0	Mysuru	—	27.0	16.2
Chandigarh	—	13.4	7.7	New Delhi	—	15.7	7.6
Chennai	—	29.1	24.6	Patna	—	19.2	8.7
Coimbatore	—	27.9	20.0	Port Blair	—	29.7	25.3
Dehradun	—	24.5	6.2	Puducherry	—	28.6	21.3
Gangtok	—	14.1	5.5	Pune	—	29.4	16.8
Goa	—	32.7	18.6	Raipur	—	26.8	11.0
Guwahati	—	21.7	14.0	Ranchi	—	19.4	7.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	14.0	Shillong	—	15.3	4.9
Hyderabad	—	27.3	15.2	Shimla	—	16.6	3.2
Imphal	—	22.7	7.6	Srinagar	—	10.0	-4.0
Jaipur	—	18.5	6.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.7	23.3
Kochi	—	30.2	24.8	Tiruchi	—	29.1	23.0
Kohima	—	14.8	4.8	Vijayawada	—	29.0	20.0
Kolkata	—	18.7	9.5	Visakhapatnam	—	27.3	20.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.66	.68	.80	111	143	
Bengaluru	5	20	33	—	241	
Chennai	5	8	52	177	139	
Delhi	.29	.63	127	367	318	
Hyderabad	.12	.13	.92	121	130	
Kolkata	.12	.65	.44	287	143	
Lucknow	.6	.43	.49	280	241	
Mumbai	.25	.92	.50	163	121	
Pune	5	.68	.87	252	185	
Visakhapatnam	.8	.34	.42	192	147	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gummidipoondi, Tamil Nadu recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 356 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 32

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

A.P. HC seeks new plan on Parakamani

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Tuesday directed the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) to come up with a fresh action plan for counting at Parakamani, saying that its (TTD) instructions are silent about the earlier observations of the court with regard to frisking of devotees at the time of counting, arrangement of tables etc.

The court also gave liberty to the CID to take action against the police officers who are allegedly involved in the conspiracy (theft of foreign currency) as per the TTD report.

Hearing on Jan. 8

The matter was posted for further hearing on January 8, upon a submission by the counsel for the TTD that he would revert after consulting the executive officer.

One more held for Walayar lynching

The Hindu Bureau
PALAKKAD

The Kerala Police have arrested one more person in connection with the mob lynching of Ram Narayan Baghel, a labourer from Chhattisgarh, at Attappallam, near Walayar.

The special investigation team (SIT), which is investigating the alleged xenophobic lynching that took place on December 17 afternoon, arrested Rajesh from East Attappallam.

Eight others were already arrested in connection with the incident which had shaken the State. Rajesh, a headload worker at Walayar, was an accused in five criminal cases, said the police.

The police said Rajesh was among the group that thrashed Ram Narayan, accusing him of theft. Crime Branch Dy.SP M. Gopakumar said a few more persons were absconding.

A.P, SIPB nod to ₹19,391 cr. investment proposals

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) has approved investment proposals worth ₹19,391 crore from 14 companies, which are expected to generate employment for 11,753 people.

The approved projects span key sectors such as industries, tourism, food processing, energy, and renewable power. With these clearances, the total investments approved so far by the SIPB have reached ₹8.74 lakh crore, with employment potential for about 8.35 lakh people.

Chairing the 14th meeting of the SIPB on Tuesday, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said that strong teamwork and focused governance were the main reasons behind Andhra Pradesh achieving better investment results in 2025.

He called upon the Ministers and officials to maintain the same momentum in 2026.

Revival of Andhra Pradesh's brand image has helped attract major domestic and global companies. Firms such as Google, Tata Group, Jindal, Birla, Adani, Reliance, TCS, and Cognizant have made significant investments in the State, the Chief Minister said, and directed Ministers and officials to ensure error-free implementation of projects with accountability.

Emphasising the food processing sector, Mr. Naidu said more processing units should be set up, particularly in the Tirupati region, to ensure better returns for farmers through value addition.

Wellness drive

Smiles assured: Students at Government Girls LP School in Kochi, Kerala reacting to deworming pills distributed on Tuesday as part of National Deworming Day. THULASI KAKKAT

Petition filed in High Court against Kerala University land assigned to AKG Centre

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

A retired Joint Registrar of Kerala University has approached the Kerala High Court, challenging the alleged assignment of 15 cents of land belonging to Kerala University to the Communist Party of India (Marxist)'s former State headquarters AKG Centre (the AKG Memorial Research Centre) in Thiruvananthapuram.

In his petition, the retired official, R.S. Sasikumar, alleged that a government order (GO) in this regard was untraceable in all official records, including in the Department of Archaeology, revenue, and other statutory offices.

The said centre was not a recognised research institution of the University and the land, even if assigned, had been grossly misused for functioning as the office and political hub of a political party, contrary to the purpose of assignment and statutory mandates. It was nothing but land grabbing by use of muscle power of the political party.

Despite repeated representations and applications under the Right to Information Act, the competent authorities had failed to provide the impugned GO.

Neither had they initiated proceedings for eviction and repossession.

The alleged assignment was illegal, unconstitutional, and void, being in violation of the Kerala University Act and of principles governing public property, he submitted. The matter was forwarded to the Bench of the High Court Chief Justice, which hears public interest litigations.

Schools and organisations in Telangana should use electric vehicles: Minister

M. Rajeev
HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has decided to make it mandatory for schools and organisations with sizeable employees strength to ensure electric vehicles constituted at least 25% to 50% of their transport fleet.

A comprehensive policy in this direction is being actively worked out and the guidelines will be released soon. The Government is trying to ensure that 50% of the vehicles owned by different departments and officials are electric vehicles. Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar told the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday that discussions were held with representatives of the companies manufacturing electric vehicles where they were asked to give concessions to Government employees who are opting for electric vehicles in place of those running on conventional fuels.

He was responding to the concerns expressed by the members over the increasing pollution levels in the State Capital which was next only to New Delhi.

The Government is trying to ensure that 50% of the vehicles owned by different departments are electric vehicles. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

ISRO calls for proposals from Indian scientists to analyse data from Aditya-L1

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

On the second anniversary of India's maiden solar mission Aditya-L1 reaching the Lagrangian point (L1), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Tuesday made the Announcement of Opportunity (AO) soliciting proposals for the first AO cycle observations.

The Aditya-L1 spacecraft reached the L1 point on January 6, 2024, 127 days after it was launched on September 2, 2023, and since then has been making continuous and comprehensive observations of the Sun from the Sun-Earth L1 point.

According to ISRO, scientific data from the mission are regularly released in public domain for global scientific utilisation.

The Aditya-L1 spacecraft reached the L1 point on January 6, 2024, 127 days after it was launched. FILE PHOTO

To maximise return

"At present there are more than 23 TB data in public domain and several important scientific results have been published in International peer reviewed journals. To further maximise the scientific return from this unique mission, the ISRO has released the first AO inviting proposals from the Indian solar physics community for Aditya-L1 observation time," ISRO said.

It added that this L1 point, located approximately 1.5 million kilometers away from Earth, offers the unique advantage of continuous, uninterrupted observation of the Sun, free from eclipses or occultation.

This announcement soliciting proposals for Aditya-L1 observation is open to Indian scientists and researchers residing and working at institutes, universities and colleges in India who are involved in research in the area of solar science. Eligible applicants must be equipped to submit proposals as Principal Investigators (PIs) for solar observations with necessary scientific and technical justification and analyse the data, if observation is made based on approvals.

Dangerous paradigm

Trump has lowered the threshold of norms for conduct on global stage

Following the kidnapping and removal to U.S. soil of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, on the back of military action not authorised by Congress or supported by the UN, U.S. President Donald Trump has now made clear his intent to set the crosshairs of American neo-imperialist expansionism on other nations and territories including Colombia, Greenland, Mexico, Cuba, and Iran. The Trump administration surprised the world, and apparently Venezuelan military forces, when it launched an overnight strike on Caracas over the weekend, including likely use of artillery and special forces, to extract the Maduros to face federal drug trafficking and weapons charges - charges that Mr. Maduro pleaded not guilty to. Responding to media after the event, Mr. Trump appeared to be setting his sights on Colombian President Gustavo Petro, when he said that that country was being "run by a sick man who likes making cocaine and selling it to the U.S.," and "He's not going to be doing it for very long." Similarly, Mr. Trump has remarked that the U.S. has a "need" for Greenland from the perspective of its "national security", that "something will have to be done about Mexico" to rid the nation of the scourge of drug cartels, that Cuba is "ready to fall" in the absence of revenue linked to Venezuelan oil, and that Iran would be "hit very hard by the U.S." if it cracked down on protesters on its soil.

While the Trump administration has consistently lowered the threshold of norms and acceptable standards for the conduct of nations on the global stage and diverged from the positions of previous Democrat- and Republican-led governments on the threat posed, for example by Russia to Europe, to directly engage in unauthorised and illegal interference of a brazen kind and seek regime change through the use of force in an established hemispheric power is a new low. The deeper danger of this so called "Donroe Doctrine" – ultimately premised on seizing Venezuela's cherished oil resources rather than any pretext of "restoring democracy" – is that it may embolden autocrats and nations with an appetite for fomenting conflict to engage in similar destabilising unilateral military action against perceived enemies, potentially resulting in full-fledged cross-border confrontations. Today's Venezuela was yesterday's Ukraine and might be tomorrow's Taiwan, if Mr. Trump's paradigm for settling scores propagates further. While the leaders of each potential future target of U.S. aggression and the UN leadership have protested such action by Washington, it might take nothing less than the major powers of today, including India, Europe, Australia, Africa and Latin America, speaking in one voice against this unhinged depredation by the Trump administration to halt this dangerous new paradigm in its tracks.

At a crossroads

Iran must initiate reforms and re-engage with the world

What began as a strike by shopkeepers in Tehran on December 28 against the sharp fall in the value of the Iranian rial, has snowballed into the largest nationwide protest Iran has witnessed since the 2022-2023 unrest triggered by the custodial death of Mahsa Amini. While the government has promised to address the economic grievances of the traders, it has also warned of a harsh response to "rioters". At least 12 people have been killed in the past week with the protests spreading. This renewed cycle of unrest comes amid the deepening economic vulnerabilities and political risks confronting Iran's theocratic state, just six months after it survived a fierce 12-day war with Israel. What makes the protests challenging for Iran's rulers is the perceived involvement of foreign powers. Mossad, Israel's spy agency, claimed, on December 29, that its operatives were present "in the field" with the protesters. On January 2, U.S. President Donald Trump, who had ordered strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities during the June 2025 war between Iran and Israel, threatened Iran that the U.S. was "locked and loaded" to use force if protesters were killed.

The Islamic Republic is facing immense economic strain. In October, food inflation hit 64%, the second highest after South Sudan. The rial has lost 60% of its value since the June war, while oil exports in 2025 fell by about 7% from its 2024 average. Power outages have become a daily reality. The severity of the crisis was underscored in December when President Masoud Pezeshkian said his government was "stuck" and could not perform "miracles" to fix the problems. As the economy deteriorates and external threats mount, the regime's greater repression is creating a cycle of crisis. Mr. Pezeshkian has relaxed the grip of the morality police on public life. But when it comes to the economy or national security, his hands are tied. Washington's policy of economic squeeze and threats is deepening the suffering of ordinary Iranians while turning the regime more paranoid. If the U.S. genuinely seeks to resolve the Iran problem, it should engage with and empower Mr. Pezeshkian, rather than threatening Tehran on Israel's behalf. Iran's rulers should also be open for reforms. The regime's default response to any crisis has been to blame external forces, but it ignores a more fundamental reality. Years of shrinking economic opportunity and the erosion of political and personal freedoms have created a reservoir of public anger that could erupt. Religion and nationalism may no longer suffice in the face of an economic crisis. Iran's leadership must initiate reforms, tackle corruption and re-engage with the world.

The right to disconnect in an 'always-on' economy

Shashi Tharoor

is the fourth-term Member of Parliament (Congress) for Thiruvananthapuram (Lok Sabha), an award-winning author, a former Minister of State for Human Resources Development and a former Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology

In the digital age, our greatest tools of productivity – the smartphone, the laptop, the instantaneous email – have become our silent, 24X7 taskmasters. They have eroded the vital boundary between professional life and personal well-being, turning evenings, weekends, and even holidays, into extensions of the workday. This culture of constant availability is not a badge of dedication; it is a creeping sickness, and its diagnosis is writ large across the face of the Indian workforce. The time has come for India to officially legislate a fundamental right for its citizens: the right to disconnect.

As the proposer of a Private Member's Bill advocating this very measure, I believe that this is not merely a piece of progressive labour reform. It is a national imperative for public health, long-term economic productivity, and social stability. We cannot achieve our aspirations as a global power if our most valuable resource – our people – are quietly burning out.

An unsustainable pace of work in India

The data paint a grim picture. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), a staggering 51% of India's workforce works more than 49 hours per week, placing the country second globally for extended working hours. This is an unsustainable pace. The human cost of this relentless cycle is even more alarming: 78% of employees in India report experiencing job burnout, leading inevitably to physical and emotional exhaustion.

This crisis of perpetual availability is not a matter of feeling fatigued; it translates directly into severe health conditions. The lack of a proper work-life balance contributes significantly to lifestyle diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, anxiety and depression. These are not just individual tragedies; they are a societal burden that drains our health-care system and severely impairs organisational productivity. A fatigued worker is less creative, more prone to error, and, ultimately, less productive. The current emphasis on measuring work by sheer duration over quality is archaic and self-defeating. The tragic death of Anna Sebastian Perayil (the healthy young E&Y employee who literally died of overwork in 2024) was a warning for the entire workforce. Furthermore, work-related stress, often fuelled by the expectation of 24X7 digital availability, is a significant contributor to the burgeoning national mental health crisis, accounting for 10%-12% of cases, as per the National Mental Health Survey. To ignore this silent epidemic is to wilfully neglect the well-being of the nation.

India's current legal framework, despite recent attempts, remains insufficient to protect the average worker in the hyper-connected, modern economy. The Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Conditions Code, 2020, sets a maximum limit on working hours for traditional "workers", but critically, it often fails to extend the same protection to all "employees", particularly contractual, freelance, and gig workers. This gap leaves a large portion of India's young, digitally-native, and highly vulnerable workforce exposed to exploitative working hours, without adequate safeguards. In a system where employees fear disciplinary action or termination simply for failing to answer a late night email, the power dynamic is inherently skewed towards the employer.

> India's legal framework is still weak and insufficient in protecting the average worker in the hyper-connected and modern economy

A global issue

My proposed Bill aims to correct this foundational flaw. It is crucial that the Code is amended to clearly define and limit working hours for all employees. It seeks to enshrine the "right to disconnect" in law, ensuring two core protections: first, employees cannot be penalised, disciplined, or discriminated against for refusing to respond to work-related communication beyond their specified working hours. Second, a mechanism must be established to address and resolve grievances when the rights of workers are infringed upon. Both are fundamentally about restoring dignity and ensuring that the right to recharge is respected, allowing individuals to maintain their physical and mental well-being without fear of professional repercussions.

India is not alone in grappling with the challenges of the 'always-on' economy. This is a global issue demanding a legislative response. Countries across the world have already recognised this necessity, setting a clear precedent that we must now follow. France, a pioneer in this area, introduced the "right to disconnect" as far back as 2017. Since then, Portugal, Italy, Ireland, and Australia have followed suit, embedding similar protections into their labour codes.

These laws mandate that companies negotiate specific protocols to limit after-hours digital communication. This is a clear signal that the most developed economies understand that respecting downtime is not an impediment to economic growth, but a precondition for sustainable growth. We must shed the myth that the world will stop turning if an email is answered the next morning.

The law, however, is merely a framework. The "right to disconnect" is defined as the employee being no longer compelled to remain available beyond their regular working hours, thereby blurring the lines between their personal and professional lives and exacerbating stress and burnout. The legislation provides the shield, but we must also wield the sword of cultural change.

The legislative momentum behind the right to disconnect confirms its urgency, with pioneering States such as Kerala already introducing their own legislation for the local private sector. While these State-level initiatives are commendable steps, the complexity and national scale of the 'always-on' crisis demand a uniform, central amendment to secure this protection for every Indian worker. My proposed Bill, by amending the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (2020), ensures that this right is foundational across all States and, critically, extends protection to the vulnerable contractual and gig workforce often left out by current definitions. This national approach embeds the right to disconnect as an essential pillar of occupational safety, including mandated mental health support, transforming it from a simple prohibition on employer action into a holistic mandate for employee well-being.

Other interconnected steps to take

Still, laws alone are insufficient to facilitate meaningful transformation. For any legislation to be effective, it must be supported by comprehensive awareness programmes, advocacy and sensitisation workshops for both employees and management. It is especially important to address the organisational norms that perpetuate toxic work cultures – those where "presenteeism" is valued over actual output, and where the late night email is seen as a proxy for commitment. The provisions for proactive mental health support services, including counselling and psychological support for workers, must, therefore, become integral to the new workplace ethos.

The right to disconnect is an investment. It is an acknowledgment that well-rested minds are sharper, more innovative and more committed in the long run. By allowing employees to genuinely recharge and recover, we are not simply reducing working hours. We are dramatically enhancing the quality of those hours spent on the job.

Incorporating legal protections for a work-life balance – the right to disconnect and limiting working hours – will forge a holistic and vigorous approach toward improving the workplace environment in India. By focusing on the well-being of our employees, both their physical and mental health will improve, creating a more sustainable and, ultimately, more productive workforce for the future of India.

The choice before us is clear: to continue down the path of burnout, risking the health and potential of our young demographic dividend, or to embrace this reform, liberating our workforce and proving that India's economy is built not just on speed, but on the strength and sustainability of its people. I urge the government to implement this necessary step towards a healthier, happier, and more productive nation.

America's Venezuelan actions are most unlawful

Prabhash Ranjan

is a Professor and Vice Dean (Research) at the Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University

The attack by the United States on Venezuela and the capture of the Venezuelan President, Nicolás Maduro, is yet another gigantic affront to international law, notwithstanding the authoritarian practices of the Maduro administration. This adventure comes on the heels of a series of illegal American strikes in the last few months on alleged Venezuelan drug boats in the Caribbean Sea.

The subject of the use of force

It is axiomatic that Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter proscribes the use of force in international relations. The UN Charter, as Oona A. Hathaway and Scott J. Shapiro argue, outlawed war and fundamentally reshaped international law, making war an illegitimate instrument for settling disputes. Article 2(4) permits only two narrow exceptions: force may be used in self-defence or with the authorisation of the UN Security Council. None is present in the extant case.

Legal scholar Nico Krisch has argued that the prohibition on the use of force is the most constraining aspect of international law. Hegemonic states such as the U.S. have consistently sought to overcome this constraint by adopting innovative solutions, including the broadening of the concept of self-defence. Arguably, self-defence is not limited to repelling an ongoing armed attack but also encompasses pre-emptive and anticipatory self-defence to combat cross-border terrorism. Moreover, the use of force has also been invoked to justify humanitarian interventions such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999.

In the Venezuelan case, the U.S. appears to have surpassed even these contested categories and identified new grounds for the use of force. Senior U.S. officials are on record as stating that this cross-border operation was done as part of a law enforcement measure, bringing accused criminals such as Mr. Maduro and his wife to face trial in the U.S. Other reasons offered are that the President was waging a ceaseless campaign of violence and subversion against the U.S. and posed a threat to the entire region. However, none of these reasons, even if true, passes muster to legally justify the U.S. using force against a sovereign state. The talk of this operation resurrecting the antiquated Monroe Doctrine of American foreign policy is not just an affront to the sovereignty of the countries of the Western Hemisphere but also a pie in the face of the anti-imperial struggles of the Third World people.

> The U.S.'s actions create a precarious precedent, surpassing even contested categories under international law

Leaders and immunity

The other legal issue this case has thrown up is the treatment of President Maduro. As the International Court of Justice held in the Arrest Warrant Case (Democratic Republic of the Congo vs Belgium), heads of state enjoy inviolability and *immunity ratione personae* (personal immunity) from the criminal jurisdiction of a foreign court. Accordingly, the U.S. courts lack jurisdiction to try President Maduro for the alleged criminal activities. The argument that Mr. Maduro is not the legitimate President of Venezuela because he came to office through rigged elections in 2024, or that the U.S. does not recognise Mr. Maduro as a legitimate President, cuts no ice under international law. Irrespective of how someone came to office, under international law, what matters is the test of effective control. The Maduro administration exercised effective control over Venezuelan territory. Thus, President Maduro, as the head, is entitled to personal immunity and inviolability under international law.

Holding otherwise would give states a licence to stop recognising regimes or heads of state they do not consider lawful, using their subjective criteria, thereby denying them immunity, which would wreak havoc in the international legal system. Moreover, forcibly taking the custody of a foreigner, let alone a head of state, on foreign land without that state's consent or without a legal procedure, and physically bringing the person to face trial before a domestic court, is an internationally wrongful act. The U.S. endeavouring to 'run' Venezuela – reminiscent of naked imperialism – is also unlawful, as it amounts to undue interference in Venezuela's internal affairs.

Strengthening international law

The U.S.'s actions create a precarious precedent. It is part of a series of flagrant violations of cardinal rules of international law, including the use of force, that have been observed in recent years. Thus, the larger question is whether the content of international law must change to address its abuse. As public international law scholar Marko Milonevic argues, the problem is not so much with the content of the law as with the complete lack of commitment to comply with it. The meteoric rise of authoritarian regimes, including in countries that were once regarded as the vanguards of liberal democracy, has meant that governments do not want to be constrained by any law, whether domestic or international. The weakening of the domestic rule of law has negatively impacted the efficacy of international law in constraining power. Thus, to strengthen the international rule of law, one must bolster the domestic rule of law and democracy.

While it is true that powerful nations use international law as an instrument to perpetuate their dominance, it is equally undeniable that several elements of international law are antithetical to authoritarianism. Article 2(4) of the UN Charter is one of them. Authoritarian regimes will continue to assault these norms and treat international law with utter derision. Therefore, it is incumbent on the democratic forces to come together to resist them with renewed resolve.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The U.S. and Venezuela

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro's removal is, in itself, not a tragedy. But the way it happened, without legal authority and international legitimacy, sets a dangerous precedent, providing justification for authoritarians in China, Russia and elsewhere who want to dominate their neighbours.

If arresting Mr. Maduro brings prosperity and freedom to Venezuela, the operation will be judged a great success. But if it brings greater chaos, as was seen in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya following the U.S.'s interventions, it will once again be an example of tactical success not translating into strategic gains.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

The arrest of Venezuela's President is also a disturbing reminder of how political sovereignty today is inseparable from digital sovereignty. A reliance on foreign-controlled communication platforms, navigation systems and digital infrastructure can expose political leadership to surveillance, tracking, and strategic coercion. This development carries important lessons for India. The Venezuelan episode should, therefore, not be seen as a distant geopolitical event, but as a cautionary signal.

Niraj Kumar,
Bakhari, East Champaran, Bihar

Salaried class, the Budget

As a salaried professional, I await Budget 2026 with measured optimism. Fixed incomes remain under sustained pressure from inflation, housing, education and health-care costs. Many taxpayers expect a thoughtful surprise: raising the basic exemption limit to ₹5 lakh, or increasing the standard deduction to ₹1 lakh. Such steps would ease compliance stress for honest earners. Far from weakening revenues, this relief can spur consumption and improve voluntary compliance. A Finance Minister's credibility rests on recognising the salaried class as partners in growth. Budget 2026 offers an opportunity to reinforce fairness, discipline and sustainability nationwide.

Vivek M. Jain,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

India's academic openness under strain

T.T. Sreekumar

is a professor and writer based in Hyderabad. Views are personal.

The recent denial of entry to noted Hindi scholar Francesca Orsini from the U.K., despite holding a valid visa, has brought to light the need for a more balanced and thoughtful approach to understanding and assessing the role of critical academic engagement, and to recognising the broader value of scholarly exchange both within and beyond India.

It seems that a rather difficult situation is emerging for international scholars who have critically engaged with Indian society, politics, or history. Entering on a tourist visa and participating in academic events can expose them to procedural complications related to visa regulations, while applying for an academic visa may itself become challenging in light of their critical scholarly work.

The long-term consequence of this paradox is clear: independent and critical voices from abroad will gradually be silenced, rendered rare, and eventually made invisible in India's academic landscape. This situation raises a fundamental question about the spirit of inclusiveness in Indian academia. Universities and research institutions have historically thrived on exchange, critique, and intellectual diversity. The presence of global scholars – sometimes sharply critical, sometimes sympathetic – has enriched debates, introduced new frameworks, and helped Indian academics situate their work in global conversations.

Sign of vitality

In a democracy, criticism is not a threat; it is a sign of vitality. From anthropologists studying caste to historians revisiting colonial legacies and economists questioning policy orthodoxy, these critical engagements in Indian academia have helped refine national self-understanding. India's reputation as a vibrant democracy has never been undermined by such scholarship. On the contrary, it has been strengthened by the openness with which these voices were received and debated. It is important to recall that no government in India has ever fallen because of academic criticism. Universities and research programmes across the country have long demonstrated maturity in accommodating a spectrum of ideas, including those critical of state policies. Research funding agencies such as the UGC, ICSSR, ICHR, and DST have historically supported projects examining sensitive social and political questions without censorship or hostility.

Intellectual loss

The danger today is not only administrative. When international scholars with a critical perspective grow hesitant to apply for visas, when Indian researchers hesitate to engage with interrogative frameworks, and when conferences avoid certain topics to ensure permissions, academic life itself becomes impoverished. The loss is not merely institutional but intellectual and moral. Nations that have prized only conformity have rarely advanced in the long run, either in knowledge or in innovation. India, which has always projected itself as a civilisation rooted in dialogue, *samvad*, must not turn its back on this tradition.

India, which has always projected itself as a civilisation rooted in dialogue, *samvad*, must not turn its back on this tradition

Furthermore, academic collaboration today operates in a deeply interconnected global environment. Research in areas such as digital culture, climate change, migration, artificial intelligence, and postcolonial theory cannot be meaningfully pursued in isolation. When certain scholars are denied access, entire research networks fragment. Students lose opportunities to interact with international peers; projects lose comparative depth; and the overall quality of scholarship declines. The effect is cumulative, slow but lasting. Inclusiveness in academia, hence, is not simply a matter of hospitality but of democratic responsibility.

Shape global view

The work of sociologists, historians, and anthropologists, both Indian and foreign, has shaped global understanding of caste, gender, religion, and modernity. These studies have sometimes been uncomfortable for those in power but have helped India appear as an intellectually vibrant society fearless of bureaucratic scrutiny. This pluralism is a hallmark of democracy, and it has always coexisted with patriotic commitment.

If it begins to appear that India is using visa restrictions as a means of selective control over academic engagement, the message sent to the world will be unfortunate: that India no longer welcomes the exchange of ideas unless they conform to official narratives. Over time, the space for independent thought would shrink, and universities would risk becoming echo chambers. What India needs instead is a renewed commitment to academic openness, a framework that differentiates between political subversion and intellectual dissent, that trusts scholars to engage in debate without ulterior motives, and that recognises the long-term benefits of a plural academic environment.

It is not that there are no initiatives to promote international academic collaboration; the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) is a notable example of such efforts. However, for initiatives like GIAN to be truly meaningful, they must also create space for critical scholars to engage freely and thoughtfully with Indian academia, enriching dialogue through diverse and independent perspectives.

An inclusive and confident academic culture is the best reflection of a mature democracy, one that listens, argues, and learns.

A central law to protect Amaravati

The move follows years of political turmoil surrounding the capital

STATE OF PLAY

V. Raghavendra
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For Amaravati, the emerging capital city of Andhra Pradesh, the journey has been one of two steps forward during 2014-19 and one step back during Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's rule

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had envisioned Amaravati as a greenfield capital city and began giving shape to the idea in early 2014.

To rule out the possibility of any future attempt to shift the capital, the TDP-led government sought to move a Bill in Parliament to give Amaravati legal sanctity, leveraging its position as a constituent of the NDA.

According to a TDP MP, this effort has been part of a continuous process. The Bill was expected to be tabled during the recently concluded Winter Session of Parliament, but that did not materialise.

The project moved at a reasonable pace until early 2019, when Mr. Jagan proposed the idea of three capital cities, effectively stalling Amaravati's progress.

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government put the brakes on the project in the name of decentralisation, triggering a prolonged legal battle that eventually ended in favour of farmers in March 2022.

The YSRCP government had challenged the Andhra Pradesh High Court verdict in the Supreme Court by filing a Special Leave Petition.

A few months after returning to power in June 2024, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led coalition government filed an affidavit in the High Court, committing itself to completing the ambitious project within three years. However, given the YSRCP's track record of reversing several decisions taken by the previous TDP government during 2014-19, there is a lingering fear that if Mr. Jagan were to stage a political comeback in 2029, he might revive the plan to split the capital into three – developing Visakhapatnam and Kurnool as the executive and judicial capitals respectively, while leaving only the State Legislature in Amaravati.

It may be recalled that the YSRCP government had earlier challenged the allotment of land to certain individuals and companies in Amaravati, alleging "insider trading".

Mr. Jagan continues to be critical of large-scale investments in Amaravati, arguing that such spending would be detrimental to the north coastal districts and the drought-prone Rayalaseema region.

The current coalition government, meanwhile, suspects that Mr. Jagan and his party are backing a section of farmers who are allegedly creating obstacles to the project.

This prompted Mr. Naidu and the A.P. government to push for a Bill in Parliament to grant Amaravati formal legal status as the capital.

The proposed legislation seeks to secure formal recognition from the Central government by amending the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 (APRA), under which Hyderabad was designated the common capital of both Telugu States – Telangana and Andhra Pradesh – for a period of 10 years.

The objective of the proposed law is to place Amaravati under the protection of a Central statute, thereby preventing successive State governments from tampering with capital-related decisions.

A senior advocate who represented farmers from the region in the High Court observed that the YSRCP's "trifurcation decision" resulted in substantial financial loss to the public exchequer and was taken not on administrative grounds but for vindictive and *mala fide* reasons.

What delayed the tabling of the Bill in Parliament was reportedly a conundrum over whether Amaravati should be declared the capital from the date the APRA came into force or from the present date. However, this is seen as a hurdle that can eventually be overcome.

In this context, it is argued that the Central government is empowered to decide the capital of the residuary State of Andhra Pradesh, having exercised similar authority in prescribing a common capital under the APRA.

Amaravati was declared and notified as the capital of Andhra Pradesh by the Centre on December 31, 2014, a move subsequently followed by the Survey of India. The coalition government has therefore felt the need to amend Section 5(2) of the APRA to legally fortify Amaravati's position as the State capital.

There is little doubt about the government's resolve not to leave anything to chance. It is now only a matter of time before the necessary legal safeguards are put in place.

Data shows Venezuela's pivot from the U.S. to China

Was the growing Chinese influence in Venezuela also a trigger behind U.S.'s invasion?

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

With close to 200 American troops entering Caracas on Saturday, the Trump administration's invasion of Venezuela and the capture of its President Nicolas Maduro was the most dramatic U.S. intervention in Latin America since the 1989 Panama invasion.

The U.S. military intervention has sent shock waves across the globe, with allies and adversaries condemning the U.S. action as a clear violation of international law. Experts suggest that the move was primarily aimed at reimposing the Monroe Doctrine to re-establish U.S. hegemony in the Americas and reducing China's influence in the region.

It is interesting to note that Venezuela relied heavily on the U.S. for weapons till 1995 before diversifying largely to players like Germany and Russia.

However, since the mid-2000s, China has consistently emerged as one of its key partners for weapons imports. There were no recorded instances of arms exports, in the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)'s database from the U.S. to Venezuela in the last two decades, except for a negligible share in 2015. **(Chart 1)**. The trend became more apparent during the Maduro regime. Since 2014, China has accounted for 46% of all arms imports by Venezuela. **(Chart 2)**

Secondly, Venezuela is one of China's key trade partners in Latin America.

While Venezuela holds the world's largest proven crude oil reserves, it lacks the resources to effectively extract and refine them.

Consequently, the South American country has sought alternative economic alliances with nations like China and Russia, which have demonstrated a greater tolerance for the financial and geopolitical risks involved. This trend is visible not just in the arms trade but also in oil exports.

While direct crude oil data was unavailable, this analysis relies on mineral export figures – a category in which crude oil is a primary component. China formed less than 1% of Venezuela's mineral exports in the early 2000s but reached a peak of 28% by 2018 **(Chart 3)**. A *Reuters* analysis showed that for some months in mid-2025, almost all the oil exports from the country went to China.

China has also surpassed the U.S. as the primary source of imports for Venezuela. In 2023, the U.S. accounted for only one-fourth of Venezuela's imports, with China accounting for one-third in the same period. This, however, was not always the case. In the mid-1990s, the share of the U.S. in Venezuela's imports crossed the 40% mark consistently for many years. However, in the last two decades, the U.S.'s share had almost halved, compensated by the increase in China's share. **(Chart 4)**

Thirdly, one of the reasons behind the Trump administration's latest move is also supposedly to counter the Chinese influence in the region.

China's investments in the Latin America region, in forms of aid, loans and grants, total up to more than $300 billion between 2001-2023. Of which more than one-third (about $106 billion) was invested just in Venezuela, making it the biggest recipient of Chinese investments in the region. **(Chart 5)**

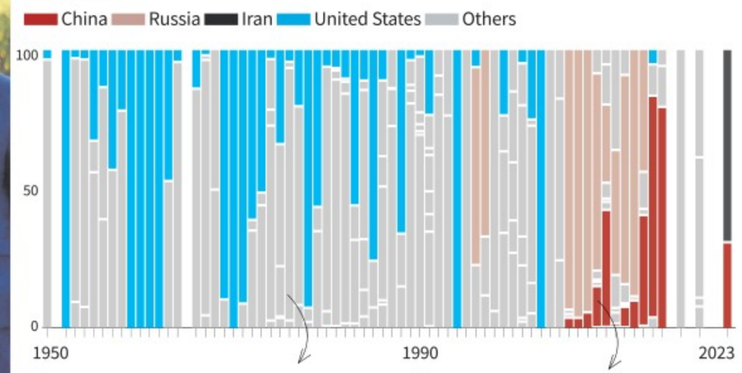
Not only within Latin American, Venezuela is also the fourth-largest recipient of Chinese aid globally, figures from AidData, a research lab, show. China has committed to more than 170 projects in the country during this period. Almost all of these funds have been disbursed as loans, and over 26% has been invested in key sectors such as energy, mining and other related industries.

The Chinese factor

Data were sourced from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Harvard Growth Lab and AidData.org

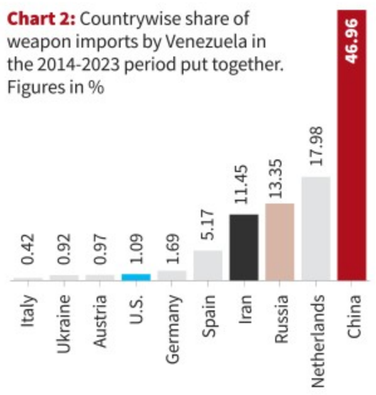
Rising influence: China's President Xi Jinping with Venezeula's President Nicolas Maduro in 2023. REUTERS

Chart 1: Countrywise share of weapon imports by Venezuela in the 1950-2023 period. Figures in %



- Venezuela relied heavily on the U.S. for weapons till 1995 before diversifying largely to players like Germany and Russia
- Since the mid-2000s, China has consistently emerged as one of its key partners for weapons imports

Chart 2: Countrywise share of weapon imports by Venezuela in the 2014-2023 period put together. Figures in %



- Since 2014, China has accounted for 47% of all arms imports by Venezuela

Chart 3: Countrywise share (in %) of Venezuela's mineral exports. As direct crude oil data was unavailable, this analysis relies on mineral export.

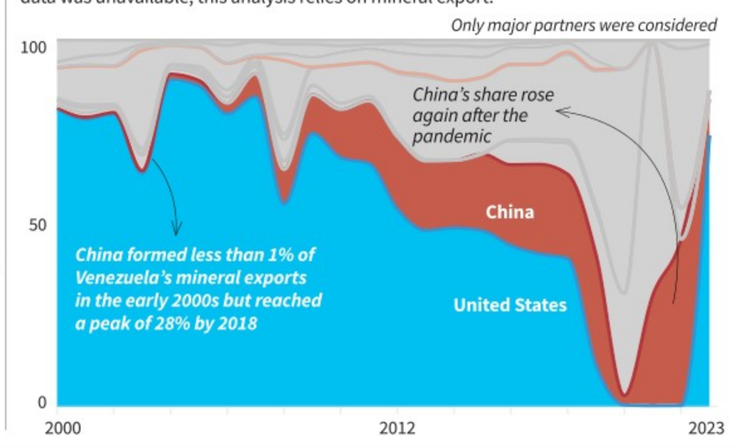


Chart 4: Countrywise share (in %) of imports by Venezuela. China has also surpassed the U.S. as the primary source of imports

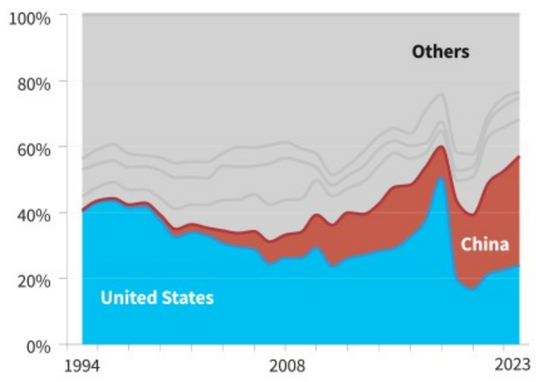


Chart 5: China's investments (loans/grants/aid) in the Latin American countries in the 2001-2023 period. Figures in $ billion

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 7, 1976

Foreign demand for cube sugar

New Delhi, Jan. 6: The State Trading Corporation, the canalising agency for export of sugar, has enquiries from foreign buyers for monthly supply of 10,000 tonnes of cube sugar.

Indian white crystal sugar has already emerged as one of the top foreign exchange earners since last year when STC exported 6.24 lakh tonnes of sugar earning a total foreign exchange of approximately Rs. 314 crores. During the current year, the Corporation hopes to double exports in terms of quantity but since international price of sugar has recently come down and stabilised around $325 per tonne, the foreign exchange earnings is expected to be around Rs. 425 crores only. Against $325 for white crystal sugar, cube sugar is quoted in the international market at more than $500 per tonne.

Production of cube sugar in the country at present is restricted to two sugar mills only, one in the private sector at Daurala in west U.P. and the other in the co-operative sector in Maharashtra. According to a spokesman of the State Trading Corporation, the two units together have a capacity to produce only 175 tonnes of cube sugar per month and this is consumed within the country.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 7, 1926

American Indians Terrorised

Organised Massacre for Oil
(Special Cable – Copyright)
Gothrie, (Oklahoma), Jan. 7: The strange story of 20 murders committed for the purpose of terrorising the entire district during a period of 3 years was revealed in the public hearing, when opened to-day, before a Federal Grand Jury, investigating into exploits of so-called "Indian killing gang" who are alleged to have organised murder on an unprecedented scale with the object of securing a booty of two million dollars worth of allotments in oil lands in Osage Indian Reservation. It is alleged that, in order to bring these rights into the hands of three parties, a series of ferocious murders were perpetrated, including shootings of women in lone canyons, blowing up of Indian homes and murders by means of poisoned liquor. Only after a score of deaths had occurred did the authorities obtain, an alleged confession of one of the culprits.

From Page One

EC says by law it has duty to bar foreigners

"Of course, rhetorically it was said we are carrying out a 'parallel' NRC. The NRC register includes all the people, all citizens, whereas, in electoral rolls it is citizens who are above 18 years of age. Less than that they are not in the electoral roll. A person of unsound mind is excluded from the electoral roll, but is part of the NRC. Preparation of the electoral roll is not a parallel NRC on the face of it," Mr. Dwivedi contended.

The senior counsel argued that it was for the Centre to issue a 'national identity card' and maintain a 'National Register of Indian Citizens' and, for that purpose, establish a National Registration Authority under Section 14A of the Citizenship Act, 1955. On the other hand, the EC drew its power to verify citizenship for the "preparation of the electoral rolls" under Article 324 of the Constitution.

Citizenship status

"All the important functionaries of the three organs of governance have to be citizens of India, be it the President, Vice-President, MPs, MLAs, or judges of the constitutional courts... No person is eligible to participate in the electoral process unless he is a citizen," Mr. Dwivedi said.

Addressing the petitioners' submission that citizenship was exclusively the domain of the Union government, the EC counsel pointed to Section 9(2) of the Citizenship Act. "The Central government has exclusive jurisdiction only with termination of citizenship on account of voluntary acquisition of foreign citizenship under this provision," Mr. Dwivedi submitted.

He said the EC was not foreclosed from "deviating" while revising electoral rolls, provided it recorded the reasons. In SIR 2025, the reasons included rapid urbanisation and migration with an eye to preserving the purity of the electoral rolls.

HC upholds order to light lamp at stone pillar

"We find that the apprehension expressed by the District Administration regarding the probability of disturbance to the public peace is nothing but an imaginary ghost created by them for their convenience sake and to put one community against another community under suspicion and constant mistrust," the judges said.

They added that no members of the public should be allowed to accompany the team from the Devasthanam, whose size is to be decided in consultation with the police and the Archaeological Society of India. The District Collector is to coordinate and supervise the event, the court said.

'Ensure safety of dargah'

The Bench held that the appellants had failed to produce formidable evidence to show that the Agama Sastra of the Saivites prohibits the lighting of the lamp at a place which is not directly on top of the deity in the sanctum sanctorum. Nor is it the case of the Devasthanam or the government that lighting the deepam is not a custom prevailing in Thiruppankundram hill, the court noted.

"The safety of the Dargah property alone is *sine qua non* while fixing the alternate or additional place of lighting the Deepam lamp," the judges said.

Leak at A.P. ONGC gas well almost contained

The incident occurred during workover activity intended to enhance the flow of natural gas.

"The flames have been partially doused and experts are engaged in capping the well. We have alerted U.S.-based experts from the Wild Well group for their deployment to cap the well," Vikram Saxena, Director (Technology & Field Services), ONGC, New Delhi, said. The ONGC is in a pact with Wild Well, a U.S.-based agency, for well control operations.

"We are expecting to complete capping the well within a week," Mr. Saxena said. Mr. Saxena stated that the safety management personnel would immediately contain the natural gas flow and deploy equipment into the well before killing it for further assessment of its condition.

Indian Embassy hired Trump aide's firm

The filings raised eyebrows amongst diplomats in Delhi as the firm claimed that it set up meetings for several Indian officials – from External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, to Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, Deputy National Security Advisor Pavan Kapoor and Indian Ambassador Vinay Kwatra with top Trump administration officials over the past year. On June 23, days before Mr. Jaishankar's visit to Washington to attend the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting, SHW says that it sent emails requesting meetings for the Minister with U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and CIA Chief John Ratcliffe.

While the Embassy has always contracted two to three lobbyists at a time, to consult them on working with the Democrat and Republican parties, this is the first time a lobbying firm has been asked to set up meetings with U.S. officials

Donald Trump

Modi 'not that happy with me' due to tariffs: Trump

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "not that happy with me" because of the tariffs imposed by Washington on Delhi for its purchases of Russian oil.

Mr. Trump, delivering remarks at the House GOP Member Retreat, also claimed that "Prime Minister Modi came to see me, 'Sir, may I see you please.' Yes." "I have a very good relationship with him. He's not that happy with me because you know they're paying a lot of tariffs now because they're not doing the oil, but they are, they've now reduced it very substantially, as you know, from Russia," Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Trump has imposed 50% tariffs on India, including 25% for its purchases of Russian oil.

SC asks if Haryana can grant relief to academic for posts

CJI says court is sure Mahmudabad will 'behave responsibly' if State govt. shows magnanimity by not giving sanction for criminal prosecution; the govt. had not granted sanction since August 2025

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday suggested that the Haryana government show Ashoka University associate professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, facing criminal investigation for two contentious social media posts on Operation Sindoor, a "one-time magnanimity" by not giving sanction for his criminal prosecution.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant made the proposal to the State government after learning that Haryana has been sitting on the grant of sanction since August 2025, following the filing of the chargesheet against Mr. Mahmudabad in the trial court. The trial judge would be unable to take cognisance of the case and move ahead with the proceedings unless the State government, which is the competent authority, grants prosecution sanction.

"The competent authority (Haryana government) can take a lenient view and as a one-time magnanimity not grant sanction so that the matter could be closed," Chief Justice Kant observed.

Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad being escorted by police personnel after his arrest in May 2025. PTI

Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju, for Haryana, was granted six weeks to get instructions from the State and revert to the court on the suggestion. Meanwhile, the trial court would continue to not take cognisance of the chargesheet against the academic.

'Act responsibly'

The Chief Justice, however, said Mr. Mahmudabad also had a duty to act responsibly. "The moment they (State) say they are closing (the case), he should not start writing anything irresponsibly. If they show magnanimity, he should also be equally responsible," Chief Justice Kant remarked. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, along with senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, for Mr. Mahmudabad, said "absolutely".

Chief Justice Kant, towards the end of the hearing, expressed confidence that Mr. Mahmudabad would "behave responsibly".

In an earlier order last year, the court had found that the academic was "entitled" to continue his writings, provided he did not comment on the cases under investigation against him.

The Bench had further spared Mr. Mahmudabad from appearing before the Haryana Police Special Investigation (SIT) in connection with the investigation. This was after learning that he had already appeared before the SIT four times in the past and handed over his personal electronic gadgets.

The top court had suspected the academic of indulging in "dog whistling" through his social media posts. It had appointed the SIT to pore over the two social media posts, to sift through their phraseology to glean subtle nuances or possible "dual meanings" which may amount to a criminal offence.

Mr. Sibal had alleged the SIT travelled beyond its jurisdiction in a bid to expand the scope of the probe. It had even sought details of Mr. Mahmudabad's foreign trips in the past.

On May 21, the top court had granted interim bail to Mr. Mahmudabad in the cases registered by the Haryana Police.

'Parole to Gurmeet Singh is very disappointing'

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

Drawing parallels between the Supreme Court staying suspension of life sentence to former BJP MLA Kuldeep Sengar in a rape case, and the frequent release on parole of Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Singh, a convicted rapist and murderer, the son of slain journalist Ramchander Chhatrapati has said that the top court should take *suo motu* cognisance of the matter.

Gurmeet Singh was convicted in the murder case of Ramchander Chhatrapati in 2019.

In a video following the release of the Dera chief on 40-day parole, the journalist's son Anshul Chhatrapati described the frequent grant of parole to Gurmeet Singh as "very disappointing".

Calling Singh a "bigger criminal" than Sengar, Mr. Anshul said with the manner in which the top court stayed the High Court order suspending the life sentence, it should take cognisance of the frequent release of Singh as well.

Besides, rape victims and families of murder victims, his frequent release posed danger to the witnesses in the cases under trial, said Mr. Anshul.

Manipur government transfers Bishnupur explosions probe to NIA

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Manipur government has handed over the investigation of two bomb blasts in the State's Bishnupur district to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), officials said on Tuesday.

Two people, including a woman, were injured in the blasts triggered by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) on Monday.

A district official said senior police officers, including an Inspector General of Police, visited the blast sites near Bishnupur's border with Churachandpur district to assess the situation. "Combing and search operations are ongoing to find those responsible for the blasts," he said.

Security has been tightened in vulnerable areas, especially in villages abandoned during the peak of the ethnic conflict in 2023.

Irate local people dismantling bunkers of security forces alleging lapses in security after two explosions in Bishnupur on Monday. PTI

The first blast on Monday occurred at an abandoned house in Ngaukon village under the Phougakchao Ikhai police station. The owner of the house and his family are currently living in a relief camp at Keibul Lamjao.

The second IED exploded about 200 metres from the house. The police said two people, Soibam Sanatomba Singh, 52, and Nongthobam Indubala Devi, 37, suffered minor injuries. Following the blasts, an irate mob damaged a makeshift security bunker in the vicinity, accusing the armed forces, comprising Central and State agencies, of failing to do their duty.

Security tightened

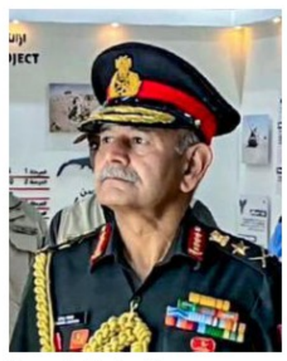
A government spokesperson said the security forces had been cracking down on extremists, and continuing with search operations and area domination drives in fringe, mixed population, and vulnerable areas across the State.

"We have set up 114 *nakas* (checkpoints) in Imphal Valley and the hills around to curb the movement of illegal elements and vehicles carrying suspicious people," the spokesperson said.

"Security is also being provided to escort vehicles carrying essential commodities along two arterial highways," he said.

Chief of Army Staff highlights modern warfare in UAE talk

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Upendra Dwivedi

The Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, on Tuesday addressed officers of the UAE National Defence College (NDC) during his ongoing official visit to the United Arab Emirates.

In his address, General Dwivedi highlighted the evolving global security landscape and the changing character of modern conflicts, underscoring the growing importance of technology in contemporary warfare.

He emphasised the critical leadership role of senior military officers and stressed the need for collaborative engagements, including strong bilateral and multilateral defence cooperation between India, the UAE and other regional partners, to achieve symbiotic outcomes and advance regional and global peace and security.

Training convergence

As part of the visit, General Dwivedi also interacted with Major General Staff Yousef Maayouf Saeed Al Hallami, Commander, UAE Land Forces. The discussions focused on enhancing positive military engagement, training convergence, and advancing bilateral defence cooperation between India and the UAE.

In another key engagement, General Dwivedi met the Ambassador of India to the UAE, Deepak Mittal.

The discussions centred on further strengthening India-UAE bilateral cooperation, with emphasis on military diplomacy, defence engagement, and deepening strategic ties between the two nations.

Visit to Sri Lanka

Following the visit to the UAE, Gen. Dwivedi will visit Sri Lanka from January 7 to 8. On arrival, the COAS will be accorded a Guard of Honour by the Sri Lanka Army. He will engage with senior military and civil leadership, including the Commander of the Sri Lanka Army, Deputy Minister of Defence and the Defence Secretary; and hold detailed discussions on matters of mutual interest, including training cooperation, capacity building and regional security.

General Dwivedi will also pay homage at the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) War Memorial, honouring the sacrifice of Indian soldiers.

Sonia Gandhi hospitalised; condition remains stable

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi has been admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here after she suffered respiratory discomfort, sources said on Tuesday.

At present, she is doing fine, and her condition is "absolutely stable", they said. It is a routine admission, but she has this problem of chronic cough, especially with this pollution in the city, a hospital source told *PTI,* adding that she was admitted on Monday evening.

She had complained of some respiratory discomfort, and upon medical examination, it was found that "her bronchial asthma had been mildly exacerbated" due to the combined effects of cold weather and pollution, the source said.

Sonia gets time to file response on voter inclusion timing case

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday granted time till February 7 to Congress leader Sonia Gandhi to file her reply on a plea challenging a Magistrate's order refusing to probe the allegation that she was included in the electoral rolls three years before acquiring Indian citizenship in 1983.

On December 9, Judge Gogne had issued notice to Ms. Gandhi and the Delhi Police seeking their response on the plea.

When the matter was taken up on Tuesday, counsel for Ms. Gandhi sought more time to file the response following which the court granted time till February 7.

The September 11 magisterial order had dismissed the complaint filed by advocate Vikas Tripathi. His counsel had alleged before the magisterial court that in January 1980, Ms. Gandhi's name was added as a voter of the New Delhi constituency when she was not an Indian citizen.

Sonia Gandhi

The Magistrate had dismissed the plea by holding that the complainant sought to set the criminal law in motion by persuading the court to assume jurisdiction, which did not vest in it legally.

Govt. gives X time till Jan. 7 for report on illegal content

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government has given X additional time till January 7 to submit a detailed Action Taken Report after it issued a stern warning to the Elon Musk-led social media platform over indecent and sexually explicit content being generated through misuse of AI-based services such as Grok and other tools.

The grant of extension came after X sought additional time from the IT Ministry, sources said.

On Sunday, X's 'Safety' handle said it would take action against illegal content on its platform, including Child Sexual Abuse Material, by removing it, permanently suspending accounts, and working with local governments and law enforcement.

APPEAL

Purusoth is 4 years old suffering from PDA with severe Pulmonary Stenosis and has to undergo Heart Surgery at Public Health Centre, Chennai. The total expenditure is **Rs.2,00,000/-**. His father is a fisherman with poor income. They are not in a position to meet the cost of the treatment. Please help him to undergo the surgery and lead a healthy life. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/ M.O/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027.**
E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

Poll panel publishes draft rolls for U.P.; 18.7% names removed

Most populous State sees 2.89 crore names being deleted, the highest absolute number of removals under SIR in any State so far; urban centres saw highest percentage of names being left out; month-long claims and objections period begins

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
Mayank Kumar
NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday published the draft electoral rolls for Uttar Pradesh after conducting the special intensive revision (SIR) with 2.89 crore names deleted from the earlier voter list of the State.

The number of names deleted in Uttar Pradesh is the highest for any State or Union Territory in absolute numbers where SIR has been conducted so far.

Only the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a Union Territory, has more deletions in percentage terms than Uttar Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh is the last State to publish the draft list in the second phase of SIR. Among other States and Union Territories where the SIR has been carried out in the second phase, the deletions for Tamil Nadu was 15.19%, Gujarat 14.5%, West Bengal 7.59%, Madhya Pradesh 7.45%, Rajasthan 7.65%, Chhattisgarh 12.88%, Kerala 8.65%, Puducherry 10.12%, Goa 8.44%, and Lakshadweep 2.47%.

Out of the 15.44 crore voters in the earlier 2025 list, 12.55 crore names were retained on the draft list, U.P. Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Navdeep Rinwa told presspersons in Lucknow.

The remaining 18.7%, or about 2.89 crore voters, could not be included on the draft list due to deaths, permanent migration or multiple registrations.

While 46.23 lakh voters (2.99%) were found to be deceased, 2.17 crore voters (14.06%) had either permanently migrated or were not available during the verification process. Another 25.47 lakh voters (1.65%) were found to be registered at more than one place.

Most deletions

Urban centres saw the highest percentage of deletions, led by State capital Lucknow at 30% and closely followed by Ghaziabad, an industrial district adjoining Delhi, at 28%. Gautam Buddha Nagar, another district adjoining Delhi saw 23.7% deletion, Prayagraj 24% and Kanpur 25% .

The SIR process in the State has till now taken a total of 62 days and has seen three extensions. The exercise was originally scheduled to end on December 11. The first extension was given for 15 days till December 26, then till December 31 and finally January 6.

With the publication of the draft list, the month-long claims and objections period begins. All those who have submitted enumeration forms, but have not been mapped to the 2003 list would be called for hearing with any of the 12 documents mandated by the EC as proof of citizenship and residence.

Mr. Rinwa said the EC had capped voters per polling station for future elections at 1,200 instead of the earlier norm of 1,500. To meet this requirement, around 15,030 new polling stations were created across the State.

Meanwhile, Opposition parties in the State alleged names were wrongly cut as voters shifted residence from one place to another in the State, adding the burden of proof onto individuals, amid strict deadlines.

Record deletions

Following a months-long Special Intensive Revision (SIR), nearly 2.89 crore electors were removed from U.P's electoral rolls

- This exercise saw the highest deletions in any State so far. With 18.7% of its electorate removed, Uttar Pradesh also recorded the highest deletion percentage among states. A lowdown:

15.44 crore: Electors in earlier list	**2.17 crore:** Voters removed due to permanent migration/absent
2.89 crore: Removed during SIR	**25.47 lakh:** Voters removed due to duplications
46.23 lakh: Deceased voters removed	**12.55 crore**: Final electors (as on Jan 6 2026)

BJP identifies three main issues as part of poll strategy for West Bengal

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party's strategy for the coming Assembly election in West Bengal has identified three main issues for the party and the larger Sangh Parivar to take on board – grassroots mobilisation, unity within the BJP's State unit, and raising issues with regard to the Trinamool Congress government.

A key part of addressing these concerns, especially with regard to grassroots mobilisation, is close coordination with the local Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in the State, sources said. Pradeep Joshi, the former *prant* in-charge of Bengal and Odisha for the RSS, is being asked to oversee the coordination.

"There are many learnings from what happened in the 2021 polls, both during and after. During the polls itself, there was a lot of heartburn between the BJP and the RSS, and too many outsiders being accommodated. Once polls were over, there was large-scale political violence in the State, and our voters and workers suffered and the party could not do much in terms of offering security. Post all this, it was felt that standing by our grassroots workers is a primary responsibility, and that coordination is important," said a senior source in the RSS.

Firming up plans: Union Minister Amit Shah being felicitated during a closed-door meeting with party leaders in Kolkata. PTI

Mr. Joshi had been in charge of West Bengal and Odisha for the RSS for some time before being appointed the joint head of the RSS's national media outreach and publicity department.

Consolidation first

This move to have more coordination between the BJP and the RSS is not new in electoral terms. During the Maharashtra Assembly election, concluded in 2024, senior RSS office-bearer Atul Limaye had helped coordinate with not just the BJP, but also in seats which went to the BJP's allies in the Mahayuti combine – the Nationalist Congress Party, and the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena.

Within the BJP, the party leadership is also trying to reconcile various factions and leaders who appeared to be at odds with each other, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah telling party leaders in West Bengal that former State party chief Dilip Ghosh is also to be involved in the campaign going ahead. Several senior BJP leaders said that while the Trinamool has already started outreach to voters with multiple yatras, the BJP's first step is to consolidate its own base and internal structures. "As the tempo for the polls pick up, our outreach will also begin," a source said.

BJP leader slams Owaisi's remarks on 'love jihad'

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Union Textile Minister Giriraj Singh on Tuesday accused Asaduddin Owaisi, leader of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) of promoting a "jihadi mindset".

He was reacting to remarks made recently by Mr. Owaisi, in Amaravati, Maharashtra that the Centre should provide all records of instances of "love jihad" from all the States "in Parliament". His political ideology was "rooted in divisive thinking", the BJP leader said.

The Hindu Lit For Life returns to Chennai with books, ideas, and debate

Radhika Santhanam

The Hindu Lit For Life, a two-day extravaganza connecting literature to the masses and travelling beyond books, will be held on the Lady Andal School premises in Chennai on January 17 and 18.

"We have tried to ensure diversity of topics and authors," says Dr. Nirmala Lakshman, Festival Director and Curator and Chairperson, The Hindu Group. "We have also included sessions on the multiple issues that the world is confronting, such as the importance of the Constitution, of physical and mental health, and of journalism in a polarised world. Beyond just celebrities, Lit For Life provides space for people who have produced good work."

This year, following the inauguration, former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud will talk about why the Constitution matters. Banu Mushtaq, winner of the 2025 International Booker Prize for the short story collection *Heart Lamp*, and Kiran Desai, whose novel *The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny* was shortlisted for the 2025 Booker Prize, will speak about their works.

The speakers include former Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India Arvind Subramanian; British philosopher A.C. Grayling; Professor of South Asian Studies Devesh Kapur; diplomat and author Gopalkrishna Gandhi; and Carnatic musician and author T.M. Krishna.

The line-up features Satoshi Yagisawa, author of *Days at the Morisaki Bookshop*; Megha Majumdar, winner of the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar for her debut novel, *A Burning*; and Neige Sinno, whose award-winning book, *Sad Tiger*, addresses child sexual abuse.

Alongside international programming, the festival consistently foregrounds regional literature and translations. Speakers this year include Perumal Murugan, Appupen, Imayam, Manoranjan Byapari, and A.R. Venkatachalapathy. In a session focused on what it takes to publish award-winning books, Elizabeth Kuruvilla, Manasi Subramaniam, and Kanishka Gupta will share their insights.

The all-new Kia Seltos
Presents
THE HINDU LIT FOR LIFE 2026
THE SHARPEST LITERATURE FESTIVAL IN INDIA
In association with
CHRIST
NITTE

Worthy, worthwhile

"While we accept that we have to engage the audience's attention with the arts and more, we still ensure that it is worthy and worthwhile. It is safe to say we never just descend into entertainment," Dr. Lakshman says.

The programme features film director Mari Selvaraj, chess legend Viswanathan Anand, and nutritionist Rujuta Diwekar. There will be a theatrical reading of Dr. Lakshman's book *The Tamils*, directed by Prasanna Ramaswamy.

The festival features a range of workshops on the sidelines, including sessions on reading and writing the Tamil-Brahmi and Vattelluttu scripts by retired senior epigraphist V. Vedachalam; on wholesome living by health and fitness coach Priti Chawla; on the secrets to getting rich by thought leader Rohit Sarin; on writing a play by playwright Gowri Ramnarayan; and an illustrated lecture by curator Sharan Apparao on the many lives of the lotus.

"The curation is a happy mix of discussions on new books published in the year, topics that have kept us engaged and argumentative, or those that have made us reflect deeply," says Rachna Davidar, Festival Director of *The Hindu* Lit for life.

"Also, we try to make it possible to talk about polarising subjects in a non-judgmental way. We would like to keep you entertained, make you think, and perhaps discover a new idea or a different way of seeing. That's the kind of show we'd like to present at *The Hindu* Lit For Life."

The presenting partner is the all-new Kia Seltos. The event will be held in association with CHRIST University and NITTE University.

The associate partners are Orchids The International School, Hindustan Group of Institutions, State Bank of India, IndianOil, Indian Overseas Bank, Akshayakalpa Organic, ICFAI Group and Chennai Port Authority.

The education partner is SSVM Institutions, Coimbatore; the State partner is the Government of Sikkim; and the tourism partner is Bihar Tourism. The regional partner is DBS Bank. The official timekeeping partner is Citizen Watches and the bookstore partner is Crossword.

Registration link for the festival: newsth.live/litforlife

Suresh Kalmadi: ex-IAF pilot whose political career ended with a 'scam'

Vinaya Vilas Deshpande
MUMBAI

Former Congress leader and Union Minister Suresh Kalmadi passed away in Pune on Monday aged 81.

Mr. Kalmadi, who is survived by his wife, son, and two daughters, was cremated on Tuesday evening. The Congress Maharashtra unit mourned his death, saying a "shining star" was lost.

A former Indian Air Force pilot and sports and culture enthusiast, Mr. Kalmadi was the Minister of State for Railways when Mumbai's iconic Victoria Terminus was renamed Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in 1996. And while he ushered in the golden era of the Congress in Pune's local elections, he got embroiled in the 2010 Commonwealth Games (CWG) scam while being the president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

Between 1996 and 2012, he helmed the IOA and found himself in the crosshairs of investigation agencies when his name got involved in the scandal. He was arrested by the CBI in 2011 and parted ways with the Congress after being imprisoned.

SURESH KALMADI (1944-2026)

Born in Madras in 1944 to parents who hailed from Mangalore, Mr. Kalmadi went to the National Defence Academy in Khadakwasla in 1960 before going to Jodhpur and Allahabad to train as an Air Force pilot. But it was in politics that Mr. Kalmadi's career took wing. He was known to be a good administrator and built a strong organisational structure for the Congress in Pune.

When a young Mr. Kalmadi worked his way up from the Youth Congress, he was mentored by Mr. Pawar. The duo strengthened the party in Pune.

But after Mr. Pawar split from the Congress in 1999 and launched the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), the influence of the Congress in Pune waned.

Paying his last respects, Mr. Pawar wrote of his former colleague: "As a Union Minister and President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), he shouldered responsibilities with dedication for many years... Differences of opinion, conflicts, and criticism are inevitable in politics; yet, even in such circumstances, he never compromised on democratic values..."

CWG scandal

In a chargesheet filed in May 2011 in the CWG case, the CBI named Mr. Kalmadi as the "main accused". But he was granted bail after being in prison for 10 months.

Last year, a Delhi court accepted the Enforcement Directorate's closure report in the money laundering case against him. But by then, Mr. Kalmadi's political career was over, and his reputation all but destroyed.

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Telangana Govt. Text Book Press, Hyderabad
DIPR R.O.No.13165-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 06.01.2026

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India
Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management
(An autonomous body under Ministry of Tourism, Government of India)
GWALIOR • BHUBANESWAR • GOA • NOIDA • NELLORE
SELECTION FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR
IITTM is an autonomous institute (registered under the Societies Registration Act) of Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India that was established in 1983. It is the premier institute in the country in the field of tourism education, training research and consultancy. It is a five-campus institute with headquarters at Gwalior and other centers at Bhubaneswar, Noida, Goa and Nellore. It runs MBA (Tourism & Travel Management) & BBA (Tourism & Travel) courses from its campuses along with a large number of training programmes to cater to the needs to the market. Director IITTM is responsible for management of the institute and is required to drive it towards excellence and benchmark with the best in the world. Institute is in the process of selecting the Director. The appointment shall be made on contract basis for tenure of 3 years with possibility of further extension as per IITTM Recruitment Rules and depending upon the merit of the case. Applications are invited from willing and eligible candidates for the post of Director of IITTM on contract basis in the Pay Level-15 (7th CPC). Circular for this vacancy along with the details of pay scale and related benefits, qualifications, other eligibility conditions and application form can be downloaded from **www.tourism.gov.in** or **www.iittm.ac.in.** Completed applications shall reach **Director (S&CB), Ministry of Tourism, 1st Floor, Transport Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi - 110001** in a sealed cover subscribing in bold letter "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR, IITTM", so as to reach latest by 1700 hrs on **27.01.2026.**

KERALA STATE IT MISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & IT,
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Website: http://www.itmission.kerala.gov.in/
TENDER NOTICE
1. Tender for Supply, installation, commissioning of WAF with SLB at KSDC
Tender ID: 2025_KSITM_821968_1
Tender Reference No. SDC/14/2025-KSITM
2. Tender for Selection of consultancy agency for preparation of 5 year strategic roadmap for SDC
Tender ID: 2025_KSITM_824679_1
Tender Reference No. SDC/15/2025-KSITM
Detailed Notification and RFP documents can be downloaded from **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in/**

I I I T Bhubaneswar
Imagine. Innovate. Inspire.
(A University established by the Government of Odisha)
No.: IIIT-Bh/Reg. Faculty 2026/007 Date : 06.01.2026
REGULAR FACULTY RECRUITMENT
Applications are invited from qualified Indian nationals including Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) with an established record of independent, high-qualified research and commitment to teaching and research for **Regular Faculty positions at the level of Assistant Professor (Grade-I/II)** in the following disciplines.
- **Computer Science (CS)**
- **Basic Science & Humanities (Mathematics)**

For further details and online submission, please visit : **https://www.iiit-bh.ac.in/**
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GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, CHENNAI
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) NOTICE
The Government of Tamil Nadu invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from eligible and experienced firms for the establishment of a In-Camera Visual Effects Stage (ICVFX) on Lease / Rental basis at Chennai, in the premises of the Tamil Nadu Government M.G.R. Film and Television Institute, Taramani, Chennai – 600 113 in the newly constructed Air-Conditioned Shooting Floor (Type-A) with a built-up area of 19,021.21 Sq. Ft.
The detailed RFP document containing eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and submission schedule can be downloaded from the official website **www.filminstitute.tn.gov.in**
The proposal should be submitted to the Joint Director (Public Relations) / Principal (FAC), Tamil Nadu Government M.G.R Film and Television Institute, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113, within the stipulated time as mentioned in the RFP document.
The Government of Tamil Nadu reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason.
Director of Information and Public Relations Department, Chennai.
DIPR/13/Display/2026

INBRIEF

'Rising attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh deeply worrying'

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the rising attacks on minority Hindus in Bangladesh were a matter of deep concern and called for extending moral support to the community in the neighbouring country. "What is happening in Bangladesh is deeply worrying for us. As the incidents of attacks on the Hindus may have their effects in Assam, we will have to remain cautious and monitor the situation," he told journalists on Tuesday. He said the worsening situation in Bangladesh and evidence of growing jihadist activities in Assam over the last 10 years pointed to a security threat.

Two arrested for alleged espionage in Punjab, Haryana

In two separate cases, the Punjab and Haryana police authorities arrested two persons for alleged espionage on Tuesday, one of whom is a minor. In the first case, the Punjab police arrested a 15-year-old boy from Pathankot for allegedly sharing information about sensitive locations in the State with Pakistan-based handlers, an official said. In the second case, the Haryana police arrested a man for allegedly spying on the Ambala Air Force Station and sharing sensitive information with Pakistan. The accused was identified as Sunil Kumar from Sabka village in Ambala, who had been sharing images of the station to a Pakistani woman on social media for the past seven months.

Education Minister releases 55 volumes of literary works

The books are released in classical Indian languages such as Kannada, Odia, Telugu, Malayalam, and Tamil, along with a sign-language series of the *Tirukkural* by Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday officially released 55 volumes of literary works in classical Indian languages such as Kannada, Odia, Telugu, Malayalam, and Tamil, along with a sign-language series of the *Tirukkural by* Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar.

Mr. Pradhan said that this was a "part of our larger national effort to place India's linguistic heritage at the centre of education, research and cultural pride".

A government statement said that of these literary works, 41 were brought out by the Centres of Excellence for Classical Languages under the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL). In addition, 13 books and the sign language series of Tirukkural have been brought out by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil.

Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Chamu Krishna Shastry, Chairperson of Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti, at the book release. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vision of inclusive India

While releasing the works, Mr. Pradhan said, "The inclusion of the essence of the Tirukkural in sign language empowers the vision of an inclusive India, where access to knowledge is ensured for all." Mr. Pradhan emphasised the role of language as a "unifying force", noting that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "always" stressed how all Indian languages were national languages.

Mr. Pradhan also posted independent messages on social media hailing the launch of these books in their respective languages.

In one such post in Tamil, the Union Minister said that the released books had six Malayalam translations of Sangam-period works such as *Puranaanooru, Pathitrupathu,* and *Pathuppattu*, and later period works such as *Nanmanikkatigai, Nanarpattu,* and *Muthollayiram*. A Telugu translation of *Silappathikaram*, one of the five great epics, is also included in this.

In another post about the works released in Odia, Mr. Pradhan said this was a "proud moment for the world of Odia literature and culture". He noted how works such as *Charyapada* and *Madalapanji* would create a "new introduction to the rich vocabulary of the Odia language", also mentioning how the English and Hindi translations would "help bring Odisha's history closer to non-Odia readers."

The Education Minister said the Union government had worked "extensively to strengthen and promote all Indian languages", citing measures such as including more languages on the scheduled list, translation of classical texts into Indian languages, and encouraging education in Indian languages.

He said that the National Education Policy of 2020 advanced this vision of education in Indian languages, and that India continued to be a "vibrant example of unity in diversity".

He said, "In contrast to the Macaulay (Thomas Babington Macaulay) mindset of the colonial era, Indian civilisation has always regarded languages as bridges for dialogue and cultural harmony."

"Indian languages have stood the test of time despite the attempts to destroy them. India is a country of immense linguistic diversity, and it is the responsibility of society to ensure that the nation's historical, cultural, and literary wealth is preserved and that future generations are made aware of it," Mr. Pradhan said.

Trade union urges Centre to increase EPF and ESI cap

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The union sought a raise in the minimum PF pension from ₹1,000 and gratuity from 15 to 30 days

A delegation of leaders of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-backed trade union Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) met Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya here on Tuesday and demanded that the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) be convened at the earliest. The BMS leadership also urged the Union government to increase the ceiling limits of the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees' State Insurance (ESI). They sought a substantial increase in the minimum PF pension from ₹1,000, an enhancement of bonus calculation limits, and an increase in gratuity entitlement from 15 days to 30 days. The leaders also demanded a hike in the honorarium and incentives for all scheme workers.

BMS general secretary Ravindra Himte said in a statement after the meeting that Mr. Mandaviya had promised to look into the issues raised, particularly the demands related to increasing the ceiling limits of ESI and EPF and the minimum pension. The BMS had earlier threatened agitation to press these demands. The meeting was apparently convened in the context of the pending demands, and the BMS had postponed protests following the implementation of the Labour Codes.

Trade unions' strike

Other central trade unions, meanwhile, have announced a general strike on February 12, raising similar issues.

The BMS statement said its leaders highlighted the plight of various categories of contract workers across the private, public and government sectors. It also requested the Minister to establish welfare Boards for all categories of drivers in the private transport service sector. "The Minister patiently heard all the issues, discussed the implications of the demands, and promised the delegation that the Centre would consider these issues seriously and take positive steps at the earliest possible date," Mr. Himte said.

Interim bail for journalist Mahesh Langa to continue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that the interim bail granted to journalist Mahesh Langa in December in a money laundering case will continue to operate even as the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) informed the court about the commencement of trial in the case.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, representing the ED, stated that the trial was likely to be concluded in three months. He successfully urged the top court to defer the hearing for three months. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Mr. Langa, said his client had cooperated with the trial, and witnesses had been examined.

Sufferers of poor AQI contribute to the problem too: SC on air pollution

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the victims of poor air quality index in the national capital are themselves directly or indirectly "contributors" to the perennial problem.

"The sufferers of AQI issue are themselves indirectly contributing to it," the top court observed orally.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a Bench comprising Justice Joymalya Bagchi, candidly said past reports and methods employed over the years have failed to improve the air quality. "The weapon which was sought to be evolved, did not come about. Nothing has come out despite all the efforts. Nothing," the CJI said.

The court said there was no clarity even as to what was exactly causing the pollution. The problem of pollution and its causes were riddled with conflicting claims, one side accusing farmers for stubble burning while the other side pointing a finger at vehicular pollution.

Delhi's air quality remained in the 'poor' category on Tuesday with the average Air Quality Index reading of 293. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"As an expert body, have you been able to identify the causes? Are you convinced about the causes? Which causes are affecting to what extent?" Chief Justice Kant asked the Centre for Air Quality Management (CAQM), represented by Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati.

The Chief Justice and the *amicus curiae* differed over the exact percentage of contribution of pollution caused by heavy vehicles. *Amicus curiae*, senior advocate Aparajita Singh, said it was 20% while the Chief Justice suggested it is close to 40%.

"See that is the problem. You have a report saying it is 20% and I looked at another report saying it is 40%," the CJI said addressing Ms. Singh.

The CJI said curbing the entry of trucks and banning construction to provide clean air would affect the public in another way. Stopping trucks may disrupt the supply of essential commodities and halting construction would affect housing, which many in the capital were in dire need of.

The CAQM said it had held a meeting on January 2 and would need two months to firm up a plan. The Supreme Court said two months was too long.

"Let us go issue-wise. Experts are there, but we can look at them and suggest ways to go the best way," the CJI said.

Pushkar Dhami to hold talks on calls to ban non-Hindus in festival

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after the Shri Ganga Sabha, which manages religious activities at various ghats of Haridwar, demanded a ban on the entry of non-Hindus into Ardh-Kumbh mela premises, religious leader Sadhvi Prachi also made a similar demand on Tuesday.

The 45-day fair will begin in Haridwar on January 14, on the occasion of Makar Sankranti, and will end on Maha Shivratri. After Hindu organisations expressed similar sentiments, sources in the Chief Minister's Office said that Pushkar Singh Dhami was expected to hold a meeting with these organisations.

Speaking to presspersons, Sadhvi Prachi cited the Red Fort car blast case in New Delhi and sought a ban on the entry of non-Hindus into the fair area. "To avoid a similar incident at the Kumbh Mela, where millions of Hindu devotees will gather to take a holy dip in the Ganga, the government should take a firm stand on this issue and ban the entry of non-Hindus into the area," she said.

The festival in Haridwar will begin on January 14.

A day earlier, Shri Ganga Sabha president Nitin Gautam told *The Hindu* that the organisation had urged the government to declare the fair area "exclusive" for Hindus.

HC pulls up M.P. govt. over diarrhoea outbreak

Mehul Malpani
INDORE

The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Tuesday pulled up the State government over its January 2 response submitted in the aftermath of the diarrhoea outbreak in Indore, observing that the incident had affected the city's image. The court summoned Chief Secretary Anurag Jain to appear before it via video conferencing at the next hearing on January 15.

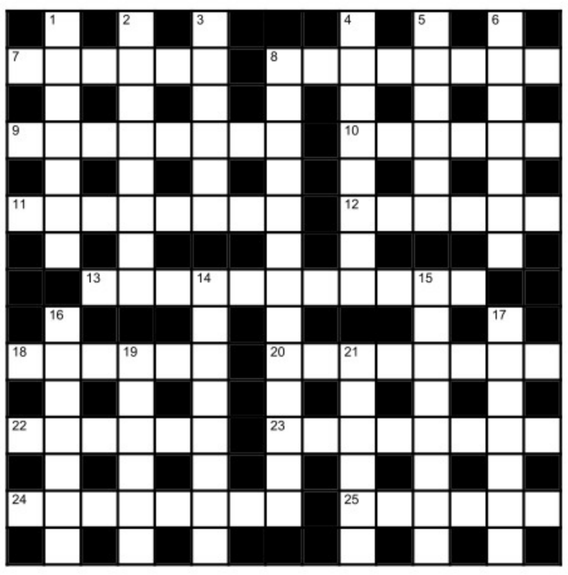
During the arguments, the petitioners' lawyers challenged the Indore Municipal Corporation's claims in its status report filed on January 2 that it was providing clean water to residents of the area through water tankers. The outbreak in the Bhagirathpura area has affected nearly 5,000 people and the official death toll is six.

TH CROSSWORD + 14685

(set by Pixie Dust)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Part of Villa Red overlooks this inland port on the Mexican border (6)
8 Allergic reaction's possibly very safe? Oh, not so! (3,5)
9 Look, Lily is prompt, making regular sacrifices - sweet! (8)
10 To a certain extent promote the Romantic Bond (6)
11 When this land of opportunity destroyed woodland here! (2,6)
12 Spooner's drink, fresh - it cuts sharply? (6)
13 Trick nice aunt potentially for maintenance (11)
18 I am sadly returning fermented meat (6)
20 Polite boy (Myra's second), liberal & extremely knowledgeable about India (8)
22 One of the Little Women basically young, fiery, unconventional, loyal & sunny (6)
23 Spur straps? (8)
24 Indian goddess with colony of non-conformists (8)
25 Red drink with Grand Queen (6)

Down

1 Scan over layer of trappings (7)
2 Sitting pretty in silk stocking (4-2-2)
3 In retrospect factor in magical Pooh's bustling activity (6)
4 This year wasted in a state of panic (8)
5 Inhibited writer's set back (4-2)
6 We learn about restoration (7)
8 Use polish any number of times to get a therapist's tool (13)
14 Model's right, one affair's insignificant (8)
15 Rich Noel to become a salt producer (8)
16 Morning after girl leaves city (7)
17 Small fish for master (7)
19 Fully informed about leading anonymous UN forum and investigating treachery (2,4)
21 Endless soda & gin cocktail in proceedings (6)

SUDOKU

	7		1		6	4		
4				8				
		3	9				6	
			4					5
8	9		6		1		3	4
7					3			
	2				9	5		
				3				1
		8	5		4		2	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS6754 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

C		S		B				T		R		P		C
A	T	T	I	R	E		C	O	V	E	R	A	G	E
M		A		A		C		O		L		R		M
P	E	R	E	N	N	I	A	L		I	M	A	G	E
A		V				R				N		K		N
I	D	E	N	T	I	C	A	L		Q	U	E	S	T
G				E		U		A		U		E		
N	O	S	T	R	I	L		B	R	I	T	T	L	E
		T		R		A		R		S				T
P	L	A	Z	A		R	E	A	C	H	A	B	L	E
H		R		C				D				U		R
R	A	T	I	O		F	L	O	O	R	P	L	A	N
A		L		T		O		R		I		B		I
S	W	E	A	T	E	R	S		R	O	B	U	S	T
E		D		A		K				T		L		Y

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	2	4	7	1	8	3	5	9
5	1	7	3	2	9	8	4	6
9	8	3	6	4	5	2	7	1
2	6	1	4	9	3	7	8	5
3	7	8	1	5	6	9	2	4
4	9	5	8	7	2	6	1	3
7	3	6	5	8	4	1	9	2
1	4	2	9	3	7	5	6	8
8	5	9	2	6	1	4	3	7

FAITH

Vishnu Sahasranama power

When we encounter difficulties, sorrow, or an unsteady mind, it is essential to seek the advice of elders and pious men. The wisdom of noble men serves as a guiding authority. What they say is a solemn declaration, and they will never misguide us, always showing only the good path.

To illustrate the value of wise counsel in troubled times, Sri Anantha Padmanabha Swamy described in a discourse that when Yudhishthira was in deep sorrow and trembling with fear after the Mahabharata war, Lord Krishna took him to the grand sire Bhishma to seek his advice. Bhishma's devotion towards Lord Krishna was as deep as the river Ganga, and his heart was pure. He recited Sri Vishnu Sahasranama and cleared Yudhishthira's doubts through "Hitopadesa."

The significance of divine names becomes clear through such examples. "*Devo Nama Sahasraanaam*": "The names of God are infinite." An apostle says, "*Perayiram Udaya Emperuman*," who has about a thousand names. Andal declares, "*Namam Aayiram etha nindra Narayana*," who has more than a thousand divine names. All the seers like Sri Sankaracharya, Sri Madhwacharya, and Sri Parasara Bhattar wrote commentaries for the Vishnu Sahasranama, affirming its greatness.

Poet Bhatta Bhanar, in his work "Kathambari," highlights the greatness of Vishnu Sahasranama. He recounts how a king summoned various pandits to chant Sahasranama during his wife's childbirth, so that both the child and mother would be safe, and the child would hear the divine names at birth. The essence of the entire Mahabharata is encapsulated in Vishnu Sahasranama.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	85,063	-0.44
US Dollar	90.18	0.13
Gold	1,41,500	0.78
Brent oil	61.64	-0.24

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2259.10	-20.40
Adani Ports	1473.20	-19.80
Apollo Hosp	7348.00	265.00
Asian Paints	2845.80	30.20
Axis Bank	1293.80	8.00
Bajaj Auto	9661.00	163.50
Bajaj Finserv	2044.60	5.40
Bajaj Finance	977.35	-1.40
Bharat Elec	413.10	-0.70
Bharti Airtel	2105.30	0.30
Cipla	1530.80	11.00
Coal India	427.05	-0.40
Dr Reddys Lab	1256.20	6.20
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7522.50	40.00
Eternal Ltd.	279.05	-2.75
Grasim Ind	2865.30	16.40
HCL Tech	1616.30	8.70
HDFC Bank	962.20	-15.30
HDFC Life	777.85	18.55
Hindalco	942.25	10.55
Hind Unilever	2424.70	40.60
ICICI Bank	1411.20	39.70
IntGlobeAvi	5002.50	-100.00
Infosys	1612.20	5.80
ITC	342.45	-7.25
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	298.55	-1.85
JSW Steel	1176.30	-9.60
Kotak Bank	2146.40	-44.50
L&T	4140.60	-9.80
M&M	3785.60	-4.70
Maruti Suzuki	17292.00	137.00
Max Healthcare	1051.60	1.10
NestleIndia	1319.90	5.30
NTPC	350.80	0.20
ONGC	241.89	3.80
PowerGrid Corp	268.55	-3.10
Reliance Ind	1507.60	-70.50
SBI Life	2095.80	20.20
State Bank	1018.90	13.35
Shriram Finance Ltd.	1002.65	-0.70
Sun Pharma	1760.20	31.30
TataConsumerProduct	1210.40	28.30
Tata Steel	186.20	0.48
TCS	3255.80	39.70
Tech Mahindra	1601.80	4.90
Titan	4111.80	32.10
Tata Motors PV	368.90	-4.65
Trent Ltd.	4047.60	-382.20
UltraTech Cement	12204.00	117.00
Wipro	265.60	2.30

Ministry for doubling auto PLI allocation to ₹5,800 crore

As the scheme, in its third year now, is production-linked, higher output levels necessitate a corresponding scale-up in incentives, says an official

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) has proposed doubling the allocation for the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for automobiles and auto component manufacturers to ₹5,800 crore in the upcoming financial year. The scheme had received ₹2,818.85 crore in FY 2025-2026.

The PLI auto scheme incentivises local production of only those products that achieve a domestic value add (DVA) of 50%. The scheme was focused on zero emission vehicles (ZEVs), i.e., battery electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

The scheme was announced in 2021, but FY 2023-24 was the first performance year, and an amount of ₹322 crore was disbursed to four approved applicants in FY 2024-25.

Green goal: The scheme is focused on zero emission vehicles such as battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. SUDHAKARA JAIN

For the performance year 2024-25, a total amount of ₹1,999.94 crore was disbursed for five approved applicants.

Looking ahead, the target allocation for FY 2027-28 is nearly ₹8,000 crore, increasing to ₹9,500 crore in the fifth year, a senior government official said.

These allocations are aimed at achieving the total outlay of ₹25,938 crore as defined when the scheme was launched in 2021.

Explaining the rationale behind seeking doubling of allocation, the official said that in the initial years, the OEMs were focused on setting up manufacturing plants, which required substantial capital investment. Now, in the third year of the scheme, the focus would be on ramping up production output. As the scheme is production-linked, higher output levels necessitate a corresponding scale-up in incentives.

CCI probe finds Tata Steel, JSW Steel, SAIL breached antitrust law

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India's competition watchdog has found market leaders Tata Steel, JSW Steel, state-run SAIL and 25 other firms breached antitrust law by colluding on steel selling prices, a confidential document shows, putting the companies and their executives at risk of hefty fines.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has also held 56 top executives, including JSW's billionaire Managing Director Sajjan Jindal, Tata Steel CEO T.V. Narendran and four former SAIL chairpersons, liable for price collusion over varying periods of time between 2015 and 2023, according to a CCI order dated October 6, which has not been made public and is being reported for the first time.

JSW declined to comment, while Tata Steel, SAIL, and the executives did not respond to *Reuters* queries. The CCI also did not respond to requests for comment.

The CCI investigation – the most high-profile case involving the steel industry – started in 2021 after a group of builders alleged in a criminal case brought to a state court that nine companies were collectively restricting the supply of steel and increasing prices. *Reuters* reported in 2022 the watchdog raided some small steel companies as part of an investigation into the industry.

The probe was later expanded to as many as 31 companies and industry groups, as well as dozens of executives, the CCI's October order, reviewed by *Reuters*, shows.

The CCI investigation has "found the conduct of the parties to be in contravention" of Indian antitrust law and "certain individuals have also been held liable," the order stated.

The findings are a critical stage of any antitrust case. They will be reviewed by top CCI officials and companies and executives will also have the opportunity to submit any objections or comments in a process that is likely to take several months given the scale of the investigation.

The CCI will then issue its final order, which will be released publicly.

INBRIEF

Goyal to visit Brussels to conclude India-EU FTA talks

In a "decisive push" to finalise the free trade agreement with the European Union, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will be visiting Brussels for a two-day trip on January 8-9, during which he will meet his European counterpart, resolve the final pending issues, and expedite the conclusion of the negotiations, the Centre announced on Tuesday. Mr. Goyal will hold high-level dialogues with EU Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maroš Šefčovič.

Services PMI at 11-month low in Dec. on low orders, output

Expansion in India's services sector slowed to a 11-month low in December 2025 due to slackening new work orders and output, according to a private sector survey. The HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index, which seeks to determine how the level of business activity compares with the situation a month before, fell from 59.8 in November to 58.0 in December. This was the lowest reading since January 2025.

'Solar module manufacturing more than doubled in 2025'

India's solar module manufacturing has increased to more than twice since last year, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi informed on Tuesday. In a social media post, he stated that solar module manufacturing has increased 128.6% on a year-over-year basis to 144 gigawatts (GW) in 2025. It stood at 63 GW in 2024. This implies that India added 81 GW-worth of capacity in the previous year.

Adani raises ₹1,000 cr., bond issue sold out in 45 minutes

Adani Enterprises Ltd.'s (AEL) ₹1,000 crore public issue of non-convertible debentures was lapped up within 45 minutes of opening, according to stock exchange data. PTI

No Russian oil expected in Jan., none came in last 3 weeks: RIL

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries' Jamnagar refinery, the largest in the world, is not expected to receive any oil from Russia in January 2026, and did not receive any Russian oil in the last three weeks, the company said in a statement.

The statement comes after the November 20, 2025, announcement by the company that it had halted the import of Russian oil for its export-oriented Special Economic Zone unit at Jamnagar.

The company was responding to a news report that had alleged that shipments of Russian oil were approaching the Jamnagar refinery.

India's two private sector refiners – Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy – used to be the largest importers of Russian oil in India. However, Nayara, which has significant ownership by Russia's Rosneft, was sanctioned by the European Union and United Kingdom, following which it drastically cut down on Russian oil imports.

CY25 auto retail sales climbed 7.71%: FADA

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Sales of passenger vehicles climbed 9.7% in CY25.

Auto retail sales in CY25 grew 7.71% year-on-year (YoY) clocking more than 2.81 crore vehicles, as per data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA).

"India's auto retail delivered a confident close, with total retails at 2,81,61,228 units, registering a 7.71% YoY growth," said C.S. Vigneshwar, president, FADA.

"The turning point came from September, when the landmark GST 2.0 rate rationalisation – including meaningful reductions for mass segments like small cars, two-wheelers (up to 350 cc), three-wheelers and key commercial categories – improved affordability and lifted sentiment, leading to a clear upshift through September to December.

Category-wise, two-wheeler sales grew 7.24%, passenger vehicles rose 9.70%, commercial vehicles expanded 6.71% and tractors climbed 11.52%.

"Overall, CY25 closes on a celebratory note," the FDA president noted.

SEBI mulls new norm for sharing price data

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The paper is open for public comments until January 27.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposed to allow sharing price data for educational purposes with 30-day lag, in a consultation paper.

The current regulations allow pure educational institutes to have data with a one-day lag and use them with a three-month lag.

"SEBI received stakeholder comments on the time lag of one day being too short, and that there were possible cases of misuse, making out a case for increasing the time lag to a larger period. Internally, it was also deliberated three months lag was too long and the educational input could be more efficient if it were to be reduced. In this regard, it is felt a time lag of 30 days for sharing and usage of price data would suffice the purpose of protecting against misuse of exchange data as well as keeping education content relevant," SEBI proposed.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
Office of the Chief Engineer — TENDER NOTICE
ADV No.56/D3/CE/TTD/2025-26 & NIT No.44 /SE-III/ & NIT No.933 /SE-II /TTD/ 2025-26 dt:05-01-2026
Name of work:1) Construction of Sri Padmavathi & Sri Andal Sametha Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Karimnagar, Telangana State. **Amount:2000.00 Lakhs, Time for Completion:18 months. (2)** Construction of Additional Toilets along the Sarva Darshan Queue lines from ATRH Circle to Batagangamma Circle at Tirumala **Amount:560.00 Lakhs, Time for Completion:6 months. NOTE:** For full details log on to the Website **https://www.tirumala.org.**
TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.345) Date:06-01-2026 — EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. : NIT/2025-26/32896 - 905 — Date : 05/01/2026
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 613/2025-26
निम्नलिखित परियोजनाओं पर पथकर वसूली हेतु ई-टेन्डरिंग प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
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क्रमांक / न.पा.क. / निर्माण / 2025–26 / 4530 — दिनांक : 02.01.2026
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ऑन लाईन निविदा डाउनलोड दिनांक एवं समय	दिनांक 03.01.2026 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से
ऑन लाईन निविदा जमा करने की अन्तिम दिनांक एवं समय	दिनांक 28.01.2026 प्रातः 11:00 बजे तक
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THE HINDU GROUP
A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP
The Hindu Year Book 2026
provides chronological, contextual, and factual information on the key events that occupied public attention **between January and December 2025.**
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BUDAPEST

Hungarian director Béla Tarr, master of bleak epics, dies at 70

REUTERS

Hungarian filmmaker Béla Tarr, acclaimed for *Sátántangó* and *The Turin Horse*, has died at 70. Tarr directed nine feature films, starting with his debut, *Family Nest*, in 1979. His slow-paced, bleak works influenced global art cinema and earned numerous awards and honours throughout his long career. AP

BEIRUT

Israeli strikes undermine efforts to prevent escalation, says Lebanon

REUTERS

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun on Tuesday condemned Israel's latest strikes on his country, saying they undermine efforts to prevent escalation. Mr. Aoun's criticism came after Israel launched a series of strikes in southern and eastern Lebanon on Monday, saying it hit Hezbollah and Hamas targets. AFP

CARACAS

'U.S. killed 55 Cuban, Venezuelan troops during capture of Maduro'

REUTERS

Fifty-five Cuban and Venezuelan military personnel were killed during the U.S. raid to seize Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro, according to tolls published on Tuesday. Venezuela's Defence Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez said that Mr. Maduro's presidential guard was largely wiped out "in cold blood" by U.S. troops. AFP

DUBAI

Yemen separatists set for Riyadh talks after fighting, says official

AFP

The leader of Yemen's separatists is heading to Riyadh on Tuesday for talks, a Yemeni official said, after days of fighting between his UAE-backed forces and pro-Saudi rivals. The Saudi-organised talks indicate the beginning of de-escalation efforts after clashes in Yemen's government-run areas. AFP

Venezuelan Parliament swears in Rodriguez as interim President

Former V-P takes the oath in National Assembly, expressing willingness to cooperate with Washington while condemning Maduro's capture; Machado denounces Rodriguez as corrupt and illegitimate, vowing to return and win future elections

Agence France-Presse
CARACAS

Venezuela's Parliament swore in Delcy Rodriguez as interim President on Monday, two days after U.S. forces seized her predecessor Nicolas Maduro to face trial in New York.

Ms. Rodriguez, who has indicated she will cooperate with Washington, took the oath of office during a ceremony in the National Assembly, telling lawmakers she was doing so "in the name of all Venezuelans".

She said she was "in pain over the kidnapping of our heroes, the hostages in the United States," referring to Mr. Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores, who face drugs charges in New York with other Venezuelan officials.

Taking charge: Delcy Rodriguez takes the oath during a session of the National Assembly in Caracas on Monday. AFP

Parliament denounced the capture of leftist leader Maduro while vowing support for his stand-in Ms. Rodriguez after the U.S. military attack that shocked Caracas and the world.

Outside the legislature, thousands of Venezuelans gathered to demand the release of their leader, chanting: "Maduro, hold on: Venezuela is rising!"

Inside, meanwhile, members of the National Assembly offered their full backing to Ms. Rodriguez – who had been Mr. Maduro's Vice President – and reelected her brother Jorge Rodriguez as Parliament Speaker.

Elsewhere, Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado slammed Ms. Rodriguez, saying she was "rejected" by the Venezuelan people and calling her "one of the main architects of torture, persecution, corruption, narcotrafficking".

Speaking from an undisclosed location to *Fox News* in her first public comments since the weekend, Ms. Machado added that she plans to return to Venezuela "as soon as possible".

"In free and fair elections, we will win by over 90% of the votes, I have no doubt about it," Ms. Machado said.

Mr. Trump, however, has downplayed the possibility of Machado coming to power, saying she did not not command the "respect" to run the country.

'U.S. takeover of Greenland would mark end of NATO'

Associated Press
COPENHAGEN

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said on Monday an American takeover of Greenland would amount to the end of the NATO military alliance. Her comments came in response to U.S. President Donald Trump's renewed call for the strategic, mineral-rich Arctic island to come under U.S. control in the aftermath of the weekend military operation in Venezuela.

The dead-of-night operation by U.S. forces in Caracas to capture leader Nicolás Maduro and his wife early Saturday left the world stunned, and heightened concerns in Denmark and Greenland, which is a semi-autonomous territory of the Danish kingdom and thus part of NATO.

Mette Frederiksen

Ms. Frederiksen and her Greenlandic counterpart, Jens Frederik Nielsen, blasted the President's comments and warned of catastrophic consequences. Numerous European leaders expressed solidarity with them.

"If the United States chooses to attack another NATO country militarily, then everything stops," Ms. Frederiksen told Danish broadcaster TV2 on Monday. "That is, including our NATO and thus the security that has been provided since the end of the Second World War."

Mr. Trump called repeatedly during his presidential transition and the early months of his second term for U.S. jurisdiction over Greenland, and has not ruled out military force to take control of the island. His comments on Sunday, including telling presspersons "let's talk about Greenland in 20 days," further deepened fears that the U.S. was planning an intervention in Greenland in the near future.

Mr. Trump on Sunday also mocked Denmark's efforts at boosting Greenland's national security posture.

China bans dual-use goods exports for Japanese military

Reuters
BEIJING

China has banned exports of dual-use items to Japan that can be used for military purposes, according to a Commerce Ministry statement on Tuesday, Beijing's latest move in reaction to an early November remark by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi about Taiwan.

Dual-use items are goods, software or technologies that have both civilian and military applications, including certain rare earth elements that are essential for making drones and chips.

Dual-use items are goods, software or technologies having both civilian and military applications

Beijing added that organisations or individuals from any country or region that violated the ban would be held legally liable.

A Japanese government source who spoke on condition that they weren't identified called the move "symbolic", adding that: "Until now, China has avoided doing things that would seriously hurt Japan's business community. By taking this step, they may be aiming to fuel domestic criticism of Prime Minister Takaichi."

At least 35 killed and 1,200 held in Iran's economic protests

Associated Press
DUBAI

The death toll in violence surrounding protests in Iran has risen to at least 35 people, activists said on Tuesday, as the country's theocracy acknowledged the unrest in one western province where security forces reportedly searched a hospital.

The figure came from the U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency, which said more than 1,200 people have been detained in the protests, which have been ongoing for more than a week.

It said 29 protesters, four children and two members of Iran's security forces have been killed. Demonstrations have reached over 250 locations in 27 of Iran's 31 provinces.

The group, which relies on an activist network inside of Iran for its reporting, has been accurate in past unrest.

The semi-official *Fars* news agency, believed close to Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, reported late on Monday that some 250 police officers and 45 members of the Guard's all-volunteer Basij force have been hurt in the demonstrations.

The protests have become the biggest in Iran since 2022, Mahsa Amini's death triggered nationwide demonstrations.

Hadi killed due to political vendetta, chargesheet names 17 people: police

Press Trust of India
DHAKA/NEW DELHI

Student leader Sharif Osman Hadi was killed due to "political vengeance" at the behest of the Awami League, Bangladesh police said on Tuesday as it pressed formal charges against 17 people in connection with the murder.

"Through public rallies and social media, Hadi had strongly criticised the past activities of the now-banned Awami League and Chhatra League. Hadi's outspoken remarks angered leaders and activists of Chhatra League and its affiliated groups," Md Shafiqul Islam, Additional Commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's (DMP) Detective Branch, was quoted as saying by news portal *tbsnews.net*.

Sharif Osman Hadi rose to prominence during the July-August 2024 mass protests that led to the fall of Hasina government. REUTERS

The Chhatra League is the student wing of deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party.

"Considering the political identities of the accused and the victim's previous political statements, the investigation has revealed that Hadi was shot dead due to political vengeance," Mr. Islam told a press briefing in Dhaka, after submitting the chargesheet in the Hadi murder case to the court.

The chargesheet was filed against 17 people, including prime suspect Faisal Karim Masud, the *Dhaka Tribune* newspaper reported, quoting Mr. Islam.

He said 12 of the 17 charge-sheeted accused have been arrested so far, while five remain at large.

Inqilab Moncho spokesperson Hadi, 32, rose to national prominence during the July-August 2024 mass protests that led to the fall of the Hasina-led government, was shot in the head on December 12.

He was also a parliamentary candidate for the upcoming February 12 elections.

THE HINDU GROUP

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A BG-BGE

SUSTAINABILITY DIALOGUES

Wider approach: SIMATS Vice-Chancellor Ashwani Kumar at a panel discussion at Sustainability Dialogues on Tuesday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

On-campus sustainability can't remain in isolation, says SIMATS V-C

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Educational institutions have a responsibility towards advancing sustainability, but this cannot be achieved in isolation. It must spread among both students and faculty, Ashwani Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS), said on Tuesday.

At a fireside chat on 'Sustainable Campuses-How Institutions can Lead India's Green Transition', hosted as part of *The Hindu* Sustainability Dialogues in partnership with SIMATS, Mr. Kumar said the onus now on the education system is to drive a responsible behaviour change and shape the thought processes of young generation.

Noting that conservation has been embedded in everyday functioning at the institution, he said SIMATS has extensive open spaces with greenery and harnesses solar energy to generate power. SIMATS plans to double solar energy capacity over the next five years, besides operating sewage treatment plants on the campus.

Highlighting the conservation efforts on the campus during the chat with Saptarshi Bhattacharjee, Assistant Editor (Reporting), *The Hindu*, Mr. Kumar said all institutions must adopt a similar sense of responsibility to help achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He also elaborated on the integration of the SDGs in the courses for various streams. Pointing out that about 250 modules across disciplines are linked to the SDGs, Mr. Kumar said engineering and medical students were involved in several SDG-related projects, including food waste recycling and organic fertilisers. Students are exposed to the SDGs not only through the curriculum but also through experiential learning, including on waste-recycling. There are also plans to initiate sustainability clubs to provide a platform for students' innovative ideas.

'SIMATS plans to double solar energy capacity over the next five years, besides operating sewage treatment plants on the campus

Describing SIMATS as one of the "happiest institutions", he said it encouraged free thinking and offered multiple avenues for students to express themselves.

Recalling his experience working in collaboration with the Goa government while heading flagship projects on malaria, he said students were involved in encouraging parents on malaria control at the household level, an approach that yielded heartening results. Such small efforts can lead to a significant impact. He also underlined the efforts to execute bio-environmental control of malaria epidemics and author manuals on vector surveillance and control that were later adopted internationally.

Responding to questions from the audience about net zero emissions, Mr. Kumar said SIMATS is taking measures to reduce carbon emissions and use resources responsibly. The institution is preparing a road map to achieve net zero emissions in the coming days. While government-driven initiatives, like the promotion of electric vehicles, seek to reduce emissions, the growing number of vehicles continues to add to pollution. A shift in the mindset of the people is essential to cut emissions.

Keyi Panyor in Arunachal Pradesh to become India's 1st Bio-Happy District

M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation has started work on the project in collaboration with the district administration. The project will look at the livelihoods of the residents, the agro-biodiversity across the district, and other ecological aspects within its boundaries, says Soumya Swaminathan

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

For lasting solutions: Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, speaking at Sustainability Dialogues at Saveetha University in Chennai on Tuesday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

The M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation has begun work on a project on Bio-happiness, a concept coined by its founder and late agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan, in the newly formed Keyi Panyor district of Arunachal Pradesh, Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson of the Foundation, said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the inaugural function of Sustainability Dialogues: Shaping Tomorrow's Sustainable Narrative, jointly organised by *The Hindu* and Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS), Dr. Soumya said the Foundation had started work in collaboration with the district administration. The project would look at the livelihoods of the residents, the agro-biodiversity of the district, and other ecological aspects within its boundaries.

Biohappiness, in Dr. Swaminathan's words, is the state of well-being and fulfilment that arises when biodiversity is conserved and utilised in ways that enhance human health, nutrition, and livelihoods, creating harmony between the people and the nature, which he detailed his book *In Search of Biohappiness: Biodiversity and Food, Health and Livelihood Security*.

A concept revived

Dr. Soumya said the Foundation decided to revive the concept in the centenary year of the renowned scientist, considered the father of the green revolution in India. Speaking about the topics lined up for the day, she said, "We don't think of garbage in terms of what it is doing to our health. What are the gases that are coming out of that. As you know, methane is one of the strongest short-lived climate polluters. It has a much shorter half-life than carbon dioxide, and yet it contributes 10 times more to global warming. If we can reduce methane, we can see the impact immediately."

The Foundation, she said, would undertake a study soon, in partnership with IIT Madras and Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, to look at health exposures, particularly the vulnerable populations living around the landfill sites in a few States.

Technological advancements, especially the advent of AI, has provided a platform for the knowledge base to be used widely. She said the traditional AI was quite good in image recognition and could be used in the existing app-based plant clinics to identify pathogens that affect crops. Generative AI could be helpful in many fields as well, but Dr. Soumya had a word of caution on its potential to spread misinformation and disinformation, particularly deepfakes, creating confusion among the people. "During COVID-19, a lot of vaccine disinformation was spread. This resulted in, in many countries, people actually refusing to accept vaccines," she said.

Green campus

Detailing the sustainable practices adopted by SIMATS, Founder-Chancellor M.N. Veeraiyan said more than 50% positions at the university were held by women. More than 10,000 trees had been planted and were being maintained on the campus, while the sewage treatment plant recycles 5.25 million litres a day. The campus, he said, generates 5 MW of green energy, meeting about 60% of its needs. In Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024, Saveetha University was ranked third under SDG 7 (affordable and clear energy).

L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, *The Hindu* Group Publications, said the desired outcome of the event, which brought together voices from the academia, policymakers, subject matter experts, and civil society, was to understand issues better, frame workable solutions, and inspire collective movement from where well-meaning intent turned into meaningful action.

Dhanraj Ganapathy, Dean of Sustainability, SIMATS, said the institution was ranked 26 in the global QS ranking in dentistry, the only Indian institution to make the cut. Manickam Athappa Gounder, Founder and Chairman, MAK India, Dr. Deepak Nallasamy, Pro-Chancellor, SIMATS, and Shreeja Verghese, Registrar, SIMATS, were present.

'Using treated wastewater is key to easing the pressure on freshwater in Chennai'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Stressing reuse: Gaurav Kumar, Executive Director, CMWSSB; Beemaraja Sakthivel, director, Stone Hands Project Consultancy; Shailesh Kumar, CEO (India Cluster), VA Tech WABAG Limited; and Vidhyalakshmi Sivakumar, professor, Department of Civil Engineering, SIMATS, at a panel discussion. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) now supplies about 1,313 million litres per day (mld) of water to the city, of which around 83 mld is treated water. Switching industries, construction activities, and large commercial establishments to treated water could significantly reduce pressure on the city's limited freshwater sources, CMWSSB Executive Director Gaurav Kumar said on Tuesday.

In a panel discussion on 'Recycling, Recharging, Restoring, The New Imperatives for Water Management' at *The Hindu* Sustainability Dialogue, held in partnership with Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS), Mr. Kumar said the city already had a substantial installed water treatment capacity that was not being fully utilised. Treated wastewater, which costs far less than desalinated water, was the most immediately available option to meet the non-potable demand, he said. Speaking on industrial water use, he said urban water stress could be addressed only through a combination of reduction in consumption and increase in reuse.

Beyond industrial reuse, treated wastewater can be used effectively for a range of urban purposes, said Shailesh Kumar, CEO (India Cluster), VA Tech WABAG Limited.

Vidhyalakshmi Sivakumar, professor and associate dean, Department of Civil Engineering, SIMATS, spoke on the role of universities beyond teaching. Large campuses function as small cities, she said, consuming water, generating wastewater, and managing reuse on site. She cited the example of an on-campus sewage treatment plant at SIMATS, which reduced freshwater consumption by nearly 20%.

Rainwater conservation could not be the responsibility of government agencies alone, said Beemaraja Sakthivel, director, Stone Hands Project Consultancy. Open spaces should be used to store rainwater and recharge aquifers.

The session was moderated by K. Lakshmi, Deputy Editor, *The Hindu*.

Shoddy waste management should be blamed on lack of proper mechanism: experts

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Spotlight on waste: Ashokkumar Veeramuthu, Head, Centre for Waste Management and Renewable Energy, SIMATS; Nagesh Prabhu Chinivartha, Director-Sales and Marketing, Zigma Global Environ Solutions; and Janani Venkitesh, secretary, Residents of Kasturba Nagar Association, at a panel discussion. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

India's problems in managing its solid waste stems from its inability to develop a mechanism and infrastructure for handling garbage to indifference on the part of the civil society, speakers said at a panel discussion on 'Future of Waste Management: Innovation, Technology, and Behaviour Change'.

The discussion was part of Sustainability Dialogues organised by *The Hindu* and Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS) on the topic 'Shaping Tomorrow's Sustainable Narrative'. The panellists listed the gaps in strategy, policy, and implementation of schemes, while acknowledging some of the positive models that have made an impact.

Nagesh Prabhu Chinivartha, Director-Sales and Marketing, Zigma Global Environ Solutions, said the waste-to-wealth concept would be a myth once the waste reached the dump. It could work if only there was a good door-to-door collection and local segregation. Ashokkumar Veeramuthu, Professor and Head, Centre for Waste Management and Renewable Energy, SIMATS, pointed to the gaps in waste management: poor source segregation, the gap between research and practice with most research projects ending up on the pilot scale, ignoring the public health aspect of waste management, and the disconnect among institutions, government, and the private sector.

Aravind Kolappan, vice-president-Business Operations, E-Cycle Solutions, said in-depth metal extraction from e-waste is not allowed in India. E-waste recycling companies, instead, segregate the e-waste and do pre-processing.

Janani Venkitesh, environmental and solid waste management enthusiast and secretary, Residents of Kasturba Nagar Association, said the attitude of people towards waste could be gauged from the language they use for waste. Awareness campaigns seldom translate into long-term action. The discussion was moderated by Geetha Srimathi, Senior Reporter, *The Hindu*.

PHOTOS: V. UMESH KUMAR

"I work on liquid waste management, where I use microalgae to treat wastewater. There is far too much plastic being used, and I believe source segregation is very important

M.J. CHANDRAMUGHI
Research scholar, Centre for Waste Management and Renewable Energy, SIMATS

"In Kancheepuram, where I'm from, water pollution is a major concern. Sustainability ultimately comes down to using waste responsibly and disposing of it correctly

KRITHIKA B.
Ph.D student, Centre for Waste Management and Renewable Energy, SIMATS

"I want to contribute to environment through recycling. Today's discussion on wastewater recycling and restoring resources helped me understand ongoing efforts to treat sewage and importance of conserving freshwater

NIKITHA S.K.
SSN School of Management

"My takeaway is that sustainability is the responsibility of every human being towards Mother Earth. We should maintain nature for all human beings to enjoy

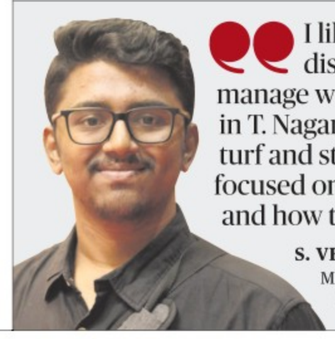
T. PAVITHRA
Ph.D in marine sciences

"The panels gave me insight into the fact that sustainability is not limited to one sector. I learnt what universities are doing to improve sustainability, and how students can contribute

SNEHAMIRTHAA G.
SSN School of Management

"I learned of a mechanism that works to ensure sustainable practices are implemented. The speakers said it's a shared responsibility. The burden must be shared equally by all households in Chennai

RAIHAN AHMED
MBA student at SSN School of Management



"I liked the the panel discussion on how to manage water systems, such as in T. Nagar, where they opened a turf and stored water. They also focused on e-waste management and how to manage water

S. VENKATESH PRASAD
MBA student at SSN School of Management

"It is not just about environmental concern. I think sustainability is about everyone's responsibility on how to make choices and how to respond to their environment

R. PRIYA
Ph.D in marine biotechnology

TOUGH OPPONENT

India is going to be very hard to beat in the near future: Gardner

FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

India is going to be one of those teams in the next five to 10 years that is going to be very hard to beat. It's an exciting prospect, it's scary as an Australian, but I guess knowing that the game is growing so quickly and rapidly over here, it's fantastic to see — Australia and Gujarat Giants all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner.

STAR PERFORMER

Alex de Minaur puts Australia in the last eight of United Cup

AFP

Alex de Minaur won his matches to take host Australia into the quarterfinals of the United Cup in Sydney on Tuesday. **The result: Australia bt Czechia 2-1** (Alex de Minaur bt Jakub Mensik 6-4, 6-1; Maya Joint lost to Barbora Krejcikova 4-6, 1-6; Storm Hunter & de Minaur bt Miriam Skoch & Dalibor Svrcina 6-2, 6-3).

DUO DELIVERS

Bergs and Mertens shine as Belgium enters quarterfinals

AFP

Zizou Bergs and Elise Mertens excelled as Belgium beat Canada to seal a last-eight spot in the United Cup on Tuesday. **The result: Belgium bt Canada 3-0** (Zizou Bergs bt Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4, 6-2; Elise Mertens bt Victoria Mboko 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Mertens & Bergs bt Victoria Mboko & Cleeve Harper 6-3, 3-6, [10-5]).

BONANZA

Australian Open prize money touches a record high

REUTERS

The prize fund for this year's Australian Open has been increased by 16% to A$111.5 million, making it the largest purse in the tournament's history, organisers announced on Tuesday. The singles champions will each pocket A$4.15 million, up from the A$3.5 million which Jannik Sinner and Madison Keys won last year.

Dragons notch up second straight win

The home side overcomes strong resistance from Soorma in the second half; Selvaraj, Uttam and Govers find the mark for the winning team

HIL - MEN

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

When it comes to set-plays and sheer pace in transition, Tamil Nadu Dragons is second to none. The way the team marshals itself on the pitch is a sight to behold. JSW Soorma, on the other hand, has been fairly ordinary so far in this edition of the Men's Hockey India League.

On Tuesday, at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium, the Dragons snuffed out a strong second-half challenge from the visitor to register a 3-2 victory, and seal its second successive win.

The first half belonged to the Dragons. After a goalless opening quarter, the host cut loose in the second.

A brilliant interchange between Blake Govers and Chandan Yadav saw the latter find Selvaraj, who was perfectly placed to deflect the ball home.

Just two minutes later, Dragons doubled their advantage through forward Uttam Singh, who slid in to push the ball into the net.

Acrobatic attempt: An agile Uttam doubled Dragons' lead at the stroke of half-time. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The goal resulted after Selvaraj was blocked by Soorma defender Jeremy Hayward and Uttam dived in front to pounce on the loose ball as Dragons went into the half-time 2-0 ahead.

Marked difference

Soorma returned after the break as a different side and made repeated inroads into the Dragons' circle.

A long ball by birthday boy Harmanpreet Singh resulted in Dragons' defender Sander de Wijn fumbling inside the circle. Maninder Singh made the most of the error and unleashed a powerful forehander that crashed into the board.

The Dragons, however, struck again. Govers positioned himself perfectly on the right to control a pass from Tom Craig and fired it past Vincent Vanasch to restore control.

Harmanpreet strikes

Soorma continued to press forward and earned six of its seven penalty corners in the final quarter. Soorma reduced the deficit through a drag-flick by Harmanpreet. But the Dragons' defence held firm to see the match through and condemn Soorma to its second successive defeat.

The result:
Tamil Nadu Dragons 3 (Selvaraj 28, Uttam 30, Govers 47) bt JSW Soorma 2 (Maninder 45, Harmanpreet 58-pc).

Tigers get past Pipers in a shootout for the second time

HIL - WOMEN

Santadeep Dey
RANCHI

It has been really difficult to separate SG Pipers and Shrachi Bengal Tigers in the ongoing season of the Women's Hockey India League. It was evident in their previous encounter on New Year's Day. And there was a rerun of the same on Tuesday as the game trickled down to a dramatic shootout once again after a goalless hour of play at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Stadium here.

However, Tigers have had the last roar on each of these occasions, finishing on the right end of Thursday's 3(4)-3(3) and the latest 0(7)-0(6) scorelines. The crowd, left craving for more after the regulation time, was treated to a dramatic shootout that saw a combined 20 penalty shots being taken. While Purnima Yadav and Noor de Baat found the net twice, it was Sukhveer Kaur's final attempt that sealed the deal.

Joy unbound: Tigers' players celebrate at the end of a dramatic shootout. R.V. MOORTHY

Earlier, Tigers had the opportunity to break the deadlock in the opening quarter itself through two penalty corners, but they went off the rails.

It was adventurous of Pipers to start with the maximum possible nine Indians, Kaitlin Nobbs and Teresa Viana being the only foreign players in their XI. Nobbs, in fact, was made to play out of her natural position at centreback to intercept Lalremisiami's blistering runs.

A scorching backhander from Emma Findlay on the left posed the first real threat 20 minutes into the game. But Solanki Bansari was up to the task. The Indian goalkeeper was tested again with Victoria Manuele threading a cheeky back-pass to Vandana Katariya, who swung just wide.

Pipers displayed a tad more initiative in the final two quarters, with seven of their 10 circle entries coming inside the said period. But the goals continued to elude both parties.

The result: Shrachi Bengal Tigers 0 drew with SG Pipers 0; Tigers won 7-6 via shootout.

ISL from Feb. 14, all the 14 clubs to participate

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday announced that the Indian Super League, which was on pause due to lack of a commercial partner, will start on February 14.

The ISL will feature all 14 clubs. The I-League, which was also on pause, will be held "around the same time" with all 11 clubs in participation.

"There was lot of speculation regarding ISL but today the government, football federation and 14 clubs, Mohun Bagan and East Bengal included, had a meeting and we have decided that ISL will start February 14. All clubs will participate," Mandaviya announced.

Joining him at the long awaited resolution table was under-fire All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey.

The ISL will feature 91 matches on home and away basis, the logistics of which are still being worked out.

The I-League will be a truncated event with 55 matches.

Sports Minister Mandaviya. FILE PHOTO

"A ₹25 crore central pool has been made for only the conduct of the ISL. Ten percent of this fund will come from AIFF, 30 percent was to come from a commercial partner but since we don't have one right now the AIFF will pitch in with that contribution," Chaubey said.

"In all, the AIFF will give ₹14 crore for ISL and about ₹3.2 crore for I-League till we find a commercial partner," he added.

Chaubey said a Governing Council Board will be formed to manage the leagues eventually and it will be "empowered to take all commercial decisions."

Star-studded line-up: Anand and Praggnanandhaa are among the top players in action. DEBASISH BHADURI

City of Joy all set for five days of action

TATA STEEL CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
KOLKATA

There is a nip in the air in the City of Joy. And there will be some top-flight chess, too, in the Tata Steel Chess India rapid and blitz tournament, which will see the legendary Viswanathan Anand take on a few of his young compatriots who are aiming to create a legacy of their own.

The Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium here will see the five-time world champion, who only plays occasionally these days, pit his skills against the likes of Arjun Erigaisi, R. Praggnanandhaa, Vidit Gujrathi, Nihal Sarin, and Aravindh Chithambaram, apart from the overseas competitors – Wesley So, Wei Yi, Voldar Murzin and Hans Niemann in the Open section.

The tournament, beginning on Wednesday, will see the players vie for top honours in the rapid and blitz events.

D. Gukesh's late withdrawal has robbed the championship of some of its sheen, denying the fans a chance to witness battles between the current world champion and a former world champ.

Chess lovers will still get to see how 'mentor' Anand goes against Arjun, Praggnanandhaa and the others.

Arjun, coming off a double bronze-winning show in the World rapid and blitz championship late in December, will be the one to beat, while Praggnanandhaa will be keen to come up with a top-notch performance in a field that also boasts of the 2024 World rapid winner Volodar Murzin.

Murzin, the experienced So, Yi (runner-up in the World Cup in Goa recently), and Niemann will be aiming to make their presence felt in what is expected to be a thrilling five days of action.

In the women's section, all eyes will be on Divya Deshmukh, the World Cup winner, in a strong line-up that features Aleksandra Goryachkina, Kateryna Lagno, R. Vaishali and D. Harika. Vantika Agrawal, Rakshitta Ravi, Nana Dzagnidze, Carissa Yip and Stavroula Tsolakido are the others in the fray and they wouldn't just be making up the numbers.

Dhakshineswar packs off Ajdukovic; Karan, Aryan exit

BENGALURU OPEN

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Dhakshineswar Suresh came up with a power-packed performance to oust Croatia's Duje Ajdukovic 6-4, 6-4 in the opening round of the Dafa News Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger 125 at the S.M. Krishna Stadium here on Tuesday.

It did not matter that Ajdukovic was nearly 200 ranking places better off (329 to Dhakshineswar's 521), and was a three-time ATP Challenger titlist. Dhakshineswar, who plays for the Wake Forest University in the US collegiate system, had just 10 Challenger matches under his belt, having won five of those and none in India.

Yet, the 25-year-old wildcard was confidence personified, serving 20 aces, winning 34 of 38 first-serve points and not facing a single break-point in a contest that lasted just four seconds shy of an hour.

Dhakshineswar's effort continued his recent purple patch that has seen him register a memorable win in the Davis Cup World Group I tie against Switzerland last September where he beat a player ranked more than 450 spots above him, and win a set against Daniil Medvedev in the World Tennis League (WTL) exhibition.

Raising his game: Dhakshineswar served 20 aces and did not face a single break-point against the higher-ranked Croat. SUDHAKARA JAIN

"It was a really good day. Can't get any better," he said after the win. "I was here a couple of weeks ago for the WTL and I knew the conditions. That played a big role."

Dhakshineswar needed just two breaks of serve – one in the opening game and another in the fifth game of the second set. The second, in fact, was to love, and the easy volley that Ajdukovic dumped into the net on break-point was emblematic of his struggles. The 24-year-old Croat rarely guessed a serve right, and on the odd occasions he did, he didn't possess the legs to stretch the rally. The home lad also had a vicious kick-serve, which he used on the seconds to make his overall game pretty much impregnable. But his countrymen Karan Singh and Aryan Shah didn't fare well as they tamely bowed out.

Other results (first round):
Singles: Cedrik-Marcel Stebe (Ger) bt Max Houkes (Ned) 4-6, 6-3, 6-1; Felix Balshaw (Fra) bt Benjamin Hassan (Lbn) 6-4, 6-1; Borna Gojo (Cro) bt Karan Singh 6-2, 6-4; Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) bt Niels Visker (Ned) 3-6, 6-2, 6-4; Beibit Zhukayev (Kaz) bt Aryan Shah 6-1, 6-2; Mitsuki Wei Kang Leong (Mas) bt Aziz Ouakaa (Tun) 6-2, 6-2; Pedro Martinez (Esp) bt Eero Vasa (Fin) 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.
Doubles: Adil Kalyanpur & Saketh Myneni bt Lloyd Harris & Sumit Nagal 7-6(3), 4-6, [13-11].

Opening combination, young Indian batters key for RCB

WPL COUNTDOWN

Lavanya L

For a team packed with match-winners, Royal Challengers Bengaluru's ability to lose steam has been legendary in the Women's Premier League.

In the 2025 edition of the tournament, RCB's title defence tapered off quite soon, with a spree of losses derailing early promise.

The side opted to retain a solid batting core in skipper Smriti Mandhana, Ellyse Perry, and Richa Ghosh. But Perry's late withdrawal for personal reasons threw a spanner in the works for a batting lineup that often depended on the veteran Australian for stability and spectacle.

It was later revealed that the side accounted for the eventuality in the auction, where it assembled quite a formidable squad.

RCB roped in Anya Shrubsole as the bowling coach for the season, and her influence came through in the side's bowling choices. A quality pace attack, featuring Arundhati Reddy, Pooja Vastrakar, Sayali Sathgare, Nadine de Klerk and Lauren Bell, offers the side plenty of options.

Shreyanka Patil's retention was more than just a simple show of faith. The offie has been plagued by injuries for the better part of the past two years, and consistency from her franchise had reduced her to tears.

Her utility with the bat and wicket-taking ability with the ball, if they click, can make RCB formidable, as it did in 2024. Linsey Smith's acquisition had Shrubsole written all over it, but how much game time the left-arm spinner will get remains to be seen.

Outside the retained Indian batters, RCB does not have an established Indian bat who can reliably produce runs. The overall inexperience of the Indian batting pool and fitness concerns for the pacers might keep the RCB think-tank up at night.

Onerous task: Smriti needs to lead her inexperienced Indian batting core to avoid slip-ups of the last season. K. MURALI KUMAR

Vital cog

Pooja Vastrakar: The fact that India's pace scouting exercises have all been modelled on finding a fitter alternative to Pooja tells us what the 26-year-old brings to the table. A seamer handy in the PowerPlay as well as at the death, and a power-hitter who can clear the fence, it will be of interest to see how she fares, not just for RCB but India too as the T20 World Cup in England comes up in the middle of the year

An interesting early mystery RCB needs to solve is its opening combination.

Smriti hand-picked Gautami Naik for her exploits with the bat in the domestic circuit and the Maharashtra Premier League. But there are also Aussie big hitters Georgia Voll and Grace Harris whose proven abilities and handy spin offer balance to the lineup.

Strong starts with the bat could help RCB go a long way in its campaign.

The squad:
Smriti Mandhana (Capt.), Georgia Voll, Arundhati Reddy, D. Hemalatha, Gautami Naik, Grace Harris, Nadine de Klerk, Pooja Vastrakar, Prema Rawat, Radha Yadav, Sayali Satghare, Shreyanka Patil, Prathyoosha Kumar (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Lauren Bell, and Linsey Smith.
RCB's fixtures: At Navi Mumbai: Jan. 9: vs Mumbai Indians; **Jan. 12:** UP Warriorz; **Jan. 16:** Gujarat Giants; **Jan. 17:** Delhi Capitals; **At Vadodara: Jan. 19:** GG; **Jan. 24:** DC; **Jan. 26:** MI; **Jan. 29:** UPW.
All matches start at 7.30 p.m.

INBRIEF

Chelsea names Rosenior as head coach on a six-year deal

Chelsea confirmed on Tuesday that the little-known Liam Rosenior will be its new head coach on a six-year deal, replacing Enzo Maresca.

Anahat makes her maiden British Junior Open final

Top-seeded Indian Anahat Singh registered a 11-8, 11-7, 11-9 win over Egypt's Malika El Karaksy to storm into her maiden women's under-19 final at the British Junior Open squash. Anahat will meet European junior champion and second seed Lauren Baltayan of France in the summit clash. Aryaveer Dewan, the second seed in the boys' u-17 category, went down in the semifinals to Egypt's Philopater Saleh 9-11, 5-11, 7-11.

Deotale tops compound qualification round

Former World champion and current National champion Ojas Deotale scored 714 points to take the top spot in the compound men's qualification round at the first selection trials at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) campus in Kolkata on Tuesday. Uday Kamboj (712) finished second, while Kushal Dalal and Manav Jadhav (710 apiece) were tied for third place. World University Games champion Sahil Jadhav (709), Worlds and Asian Games medallists Rajat Chauhan and Abhishek Verma and Sehajpreet Singh (708 apiece) were joint-sixth.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Malaysia Open, Star Sports 3 & JioHotstar, 9 a.m.

HIL: Women: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 5 p.m. Men: Sony Sports, Ten 1 & LIV, 7.30 p.m.

Sri Lanka vs Pakistan: 1st T20I, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 7 p.m.

Serie A: DAZN, 11 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Thursday)

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 1 a.m. (Thursday)

The Ashes: 5th Test, day 5, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 4.30 a.m. (Thursday)

Clinical Karnataka crushes Rajasthan, books a spot in the knockout phase

Centurion Mayank and Padikkal make merry before Prasidh excels with a five-for; Vishnu's blistering century keeps Kerala's quarterfinal hopes alive

In full flow: Karnataka skipper Mayank notched up his second century of the tournament. VIJAY SONEJI

HAZARE TROPHY

M.R. Praveen Chandran
AHMEDABAD

Karnataka proved it was equally proficient in defending totals as it was at chasing targets as it chalked out a 150-run win over Rajasthan to book a spot in the knockout round of the Vijay Hazare Trophy cricket tournament, at the Gujarat College ground, here on Tuesday.

The inform openers Mayank Agarwal (100, 109b, 9x4, 3x6) and Devdutt Padikkal (91, 82b, 12x4, 2x6) forged another century alliance as Karnataka cantered to 184 in 28.2 overs.

Padikkal missed out on his fifth century of the tournament as he was done in by a faster delivery by Manav Suthar when going for a cut.

Mayank, dropped at 50 by Aditya Rathore at the mid-wicket fence off Suthar, scored his second hundred of the tournament but holed out soon after reaching the landmark.

Karnataka then lost wickets regularly as Rajasthan came back to restrict the former. Rajasthan was never in the hunt after losing its top-order in the PowerPlay. Shreyas Gopal castled the dangerous Deepak Hooda for 29.

Karan Lamba attacked the spinners to score 55 but fell trying another big hit off left arm spinner Sreesha Achar. Prasidh Krishna (five for 36) returned to wipe out the lower order.

Sixes galore

Vishnu Vinod sledgehammered Pondicherry to take Kerala to an eight-wicket win and keep its knockout hopes alive. Vishnu batted like a man possessed to smash 14 sixes and 13 fours in his 84-ball unbeaten 162 as Kerala overhauled a target of 248 with 21 overs to spare. B. Aparajith remained unbeaten on 63 as he helped Vishnu add 222 for the second wicket.

Earlier, Pondicherry lost its last five wickets for just 16 runs as Kerala medium-pacers M.D. Nidheesh (four for 41) and Eden Apple Tom (two for 33) wreaked havoc.

Much-needed victory

Tamil Nadu clinched a much-needed win when it beat Tripura by 54 runs.

Medium-pacer Gurjapneet Singh (six for 26) was central to Tamil Nadu's win as Tripura, chasing a target of 260, was dismissed for 205 in 42.4 overs.

Gurjapneet scuppered the chase by picking three wickets in his first spell before coming back to polish the tail in his second.

HAZARE TROPHY — TUESDAY'S SCORES

Elite: Group A (Ahmedabad): Karnataka 324/7 in 50 overs (Mayank Agarwal 100, Devdutt Padikkal 91) bt Rajasthan 174 in 38 overs (Karan Lamba 55, Prasidh Krishna 5/36).

Pondicherry 247 in 47.4 overs (Ajay Rohera 53, Jashwanth Shreeram 57, M.D. Nidheesh 4/41) lost to Kerala 252/2 in 29 overs (B. Aparajith 63 n.o., Vishnu Vinod 162 n.o.).

Tamil Nadu 259/6 in 50 overs (Andre Siddarth 70, B. Indrajith 48, S. Mohamed Ali 46) bt Tripura 205 in 42.4 overs (Tejasvi Jaiswal 45, Mura Singh 43, Gurjapneet Singh 6/26).

Madhya Pradesh 277 in 48.4 overs (Akshat Raghuwanshi 64, Shivang Kumar 67) lost to Jharkhand 278/8 in 47.4 overs (Shikar Mohan 103, Utkarsh Singh 56, Virat Singh 45).

Group B (Rajkot): Hyderabad 352/5 in 50 overs (Aman Rao 200 n.o., Rahul Singh Gahlaut 65) beat Bengal 245 all out in 44.4 overs (Anustup Majumdar 59, Shahbaz Ahmed 108 n.o., Mohammed Siraj 4/58).

Uttar Pradesh 339/5 in 50 overs (Abhishek Goswami 103, Dhruv Jurel 56, Priyam Garg 67, Rinku Singh 57) bt Vidarbha 285/9 in 50 overs (Aman Mokhade 147, Akshay Wadkar 51 n.o.).

Baroda 332 in 50 overs (Priyanshu Moliya 114, Vishnu Solanki 132, Auqib Nabi 4/52) beat Jammu and Kashmir 256 all out in 45.3 overs (Dikshant Kundal 66, Kawalpreet Singh 65, Sahil Lotra 42).

Assam 284/7 in 50 overs (Saurav Dihingia 61, Sumit Ghadigaonkar 51, Sibsankar Roy 106 n.o.) lost to Chandigarh 286/3 in 47.2 overs (Manan Vohra 102, Arjun Azad 140).

Reigning supreme: Bihar emerged the Plate winner with a dominant show. X@BCCIDOMESTIC

Group C (Jaipur): Mumbai 299/9 in 33 overs (Musheer Khan 73, Shreyas Iyer 82) bt Himachal Pradesh 292 in 32.4 overs (Pukhraj Mann 64, Ankush Bains 53, Mayank Dagar 64, Shivam Dube 4/68).

Sikkim 219/8 in 33 overs (Kranthi Kumar 95) lost to Uttarakhand 223/4 in 31.1 overs (Sanskar Rawat 112, Shashwat Dangwal 55)

Goa 211 in 40 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 66, Lalit Yadav 54) lost to Punjab 212/4 in 35 overs (Harnoor Singh 94 n.o., Naman Dhir 68).

Chhattisgarh 166 in 29 (31) overs (Aayush Pandey 49) bt Maharashtra 160/8 in 31 overs (Arshin Kulkarni 67).

Group D (Bengaluru): Gujarat 333/6 in 50 overs (Aarya Desai 54, Urvil Patel 64, Ahaan Poddar 64, Axar Patel 73, S.D. Chauhan 44 n.o.) bt Odisha 100 in 28.1 overs (Chintan Gaja 6/31).

Saurashtra 349/5 in 50 overs (Harvik Desai 110, V. Jadeja 71, Prerak Mankad 53) bt Services 238 in 45.5 overs (Harsh Wardhan 41, Rajat Paliwal 44).

Railways 179 in 40.4 overs (K.T. Marathe 51) lost to Delhi 182/4 in 21.4 overs (Priyansh Arya 80).

Haryana 324 in 49.5 overs (Mayank Shandilya 75, Himanshu Rana 112, Parth Vats 69, Satyanarayana Raju 5/44) tied with Andhra 307/7 in 48 overs (C. Gnaneshwar 142 n.o., K.S. Bharat 70), via VJD method.

Plate (Ranchi): Final: Manipur 169 in 47.5 overs (Ulenyai Khwairakpam 61, Pheiroijam Jotin 51, Shabbir Khan 7/30, incl. a hat-trick) lost to Bihar 170/4 in 31.2 overs (Ayush Loharuka 75).

Abhinav lets his bat do the talking

M.R. Praveen Chandran
AHMEDABAD

The IPL snub was a bitter pill to swallow for Abhinav Manohar, but he decided to maximise things which he could control for salvation.

After a low-key performance in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, Abhinav has struck a purple patch as a finisher in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy, scoring 211 runs from 117 balls at a strike rate of 180.34 and has been dismissed just once. Abhinav's vital contribution has been one of the reasons for Karnataka's unbeaten streak.

Abhinav delivered when Karnataka was chasing a record target of 413 against Jharkhand in the opener.

He smote an unbeaten 56 off 32 balls and added crucial 88 runs for the unbroken sixth wicket with debutant Dhruv Prabhakar (40 n.o.) to take his side to a memorable victory.

Impact player: Abhinav's performance has been one of the reasons for Karnataka's unbeaten streak in Hazare Trophy. VIJAY SONEJI

In the match against Tripura, Abhinav played another impactful innings underling his utility at No. 6. Arriving at the crease at the fall of K.L. Rahul in the 38th over, Abhinav clubbed an unbeaten 79 off 43 balls, laced with six fours and four sixes, which enabled Karnataka plunder 125 runs from the last 12 overs.

"The IPL auction took place when I was playing in the SMAT. It was disappointing not to be picked and it affected my batting resulting in a below-par show. Sometimes you don't understand the dynamics of the auction. This season I guess the IPL teams wanted fast bowlers more than the finishers.

"But I have moved on and decided to do well in areas which I could control. I am happy I have come good in this tournament and contributing to the team. I have the backing of the team management and they know my worth as a finisher. I am pretty experienced in choosing the time and bowlers to attack in the death overs," he said.

Cricket is collateral damage in a game of political expediency

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

For so long has the Board of Control for Cricket in India been the bully of international cricket, it shouldn't be a surprise that it is equally the bully of domestic cricket too. By asking the Kolkata Knight Riders to sack Bangladesh's Mustafizur Rahman after he had been picked for the IPL, the BCCI showed it was more concerned with pleasing its masters in the government than the sport it was elected to protect and preserve.

Seven players from Bangladesh were in the auction, one was picked. Then came the troll. It was a delicious opportunity for a politician to strike at Bangladesh (ahead of the elections in Bengal) and a prominent Muslim at home in the same action. He was like a batter who edges for runs and then sees an overthrow add another four to his score.

Shah Rukh Khan is the face of KKR, so by the logic of the troll he becomes a traitor for choosing a player from Bangladesh, a troubled country where a Hindu man was killed in ongoing violence.

How Bangladesh treat their minorities seems to have come as a shock to the politician who knows all about treating minorities at home.

Bangladesh in response have asked the International Cricket Council to move their matches in next month's T20 World Cup away from India while deciding the IPL will not be telecast in their country. Mustafizur, Shah Rukh Khan, private franchises, the game of cricket itself have become collateral damage in a game of political expediency.

India provided asylum for deposed Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while the funeral of another Prime Minister, Khaleda Zia, was attended by the external affairs minister. The troll seems to have missed these events.

In a fix

The BCCI's action – it is an arm of the ruling party after all – has put Indian sport in a fix. This is the country that hopes to host the 2036 Olympics. By then how many countries might upset the authorities and how loud will the calls be for banning these for perceived slights? Shah Rukh Khan will be 70 then.

This is not to say that sport and politics do not mix. That would be naive. Boycotts on moral grounds (apartheid in South Africa) have shown that when nations stand together, change can happen.

But this Bangladesh issue has not been thought through at a time when India are trying to mend fences with their neighbours. Depending on which side of the political divide you are, this is either a victory for India's foreign policy, or yet another neighbourhood disaster.

Not for the first time, cricket has to bear the burden of political posturing. This means either that sport is not important, and therefore can be a substitute for low-grade politics, or it is so important that only cricket can carry the intended message, whatever that is. But sport does not reshape the world, it merely reflects it.

And what it is reflecting now is not pretty. The weaponisation of sport or entertainment or justice or religion or any sphere of human activity never is. Bullying is usually a sign of insecurity.

When things go wrong, cricket is blamed for failing where it was never equipped to succeed. It is forced to wear the cloak of failure that politicians shed with alacrity. Cricket has carried more weight than it asked for because it can be a shared language.

The ICC, an arm of the BCCI and by extension the Indian government, is probably awaiting instructions. In the past, it was India who championed the entry of their neighbours Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh into international cricket.

For long Afghanistan used India as 'home' ground because of the situation there. We can call none of these countries our friends now. Cricket diplomacy cuts both ways – it strengthens ties (its expected role) as easily as it divides nations when handled negatively.

The whole affair exposes the dangers of politicians running sports. And of foreign policy based on social media posts. When the 'might is right' approach – Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair! – is the prevailing orthodoxy, it will take time to appreciate that actually doing right constitutes might. That strength flows from fairness.

SNAPSHOTS

Five out of five for East Bengal

KOLKATA: East Bengal FC blanked Kickstart FC 5-0 for its fifth straight win in the Indian Women's League, at the Kalyani Stadium on Tuesday.

The results: East Bengal FC 5 (Fazila Ikwaput 15, 73, Resty Nanziri 45+2, Sulanjana Raul 60, Astam Oraon 62) bt Kickstart FC 0; Sribhumi FC 3 (Thoibisana Chanu 56, Anju Chanu 79, Anju Tamang 90+1) bt Garhwal United FC 0; Sethu FC 2 (Lynda Kom Serto 72, 81) bt Nita FA 1 (Pyari Xaxa 7); Gokulam Kerala FC 0 drew with Sesa FA 0.

Lakshya advances

KUALA LUMPUR: Lakshya Sen advanced to the men's singles second round with a 21-16, 15-21, 21-14 win over Jia Heng Jason Teh of Singapore at the Malaysia Open Super 750 badminton tournament in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

Other results (first round): **Women:** Ratchanok Intanon (Tha) bt Malvika Bansod 21-11, 21-11.

Pavandeep hits tons in both innings

BENGALURU: Pavandeep Bharadakane (147 n.o. and 118 n.o.) starred for Raichur against Mangalore in the KSCA under-14 inter-zonal tournament.

The scores: Raichur 245 in 63 overs (Tejas 48, Pavandeep Bharadakane 147 n.o., Rao Jadhav 4/44) and 173/8 in 49 overs (Pavandeep Bharadakane 118 n.o.) drew with Mangalore 149 in 44.5 overs (V.A. Vruthan 73) and 57/1 in 24 overs.

President's XI 175 in 56.5 overs (Ryan Tomar 54, Rahul Jena 5/23) and 200/6 in 60.1 overs (Prabhav Pydah 43, Aaryan Nagesh 94) drew with Bangalore City XI 287/9 in 90 overs (Advay Choudhary 60, Zaki Ahmad 129 n.o.).

Shivamogga 192 in 85.2 overs (N. Yuvaraj 62, Daivik Mugabast 4/32) drew with Dharwad 83 in 36.3 overs (Ajay Lamani 46) and 157/7 in 64 overs (Pranav Jadagoudar 44).

Tumkur 149 in 67 overs (B.N. Tarun 73) and 105 in 39.5 overs (Vyom Naidu 4/31) drew with Vice-President' s XI 208 in 68.3 overs (Athreya Bhat 40, Vyom Naidu 70, Sanjay Girish 4/57) and 44/4 in seven overs.

Bangalore 177 in 69 overs (Akhieera Allan 52, H. Swaroop 6/50) and 230/7 in 68 overs (Akhieera Allan 87 n.o., Krishav Karthik 57, S.A. Sashreek 5/44) drew with Mysore 211 in 55.4 overs (Sachin Raj 74, H. Swaroop 56, Joe Francis 4/48).

Combined City XI 313/6 in 90 overs (Samarth Suresh 157, Gagan Metre 56, Krishna 57) and 92/9 decl. in 35.2 overs (Hrithvik Shetty 45 n.o.) drew with Secretary's XI 40 in 32.4 overs (Krishna 6/10) and 54/7 in 27 overs.

Former India footballer Sadathulla Khan passes away

Former India football player Sadathulla Khan passed away here. He was 75. Sadathulla represented India in the 1968 Merdeka Tournament at Kuala Lumpur.

He started his football career with Team Muslims Heroes FC. He later played for Mohammedan Sporting Club, East Bengal and ITI on the club circuit.

He represented Karnataka and Bengal in the Santosh Trophy.

Easy for Mysore Vijayanagar FC

Mysore Vijayanagar FC blanked Empire FC 3-0 in the BDFA 'B' division football league here on Tuesday.

Other results: FC Mangalore bt Young Blues Elite FC 3-0; KSP FC drew with Revive FC 2-2.

Karnataka wins big against Assam in BCCI under-15 girls' one-day Trophy

KOLKATA: Karnataka outclassed Assam by nine wickets in the BCCI under-15 girls' one-day Trophy match in Kolkata.

The scores: Assam 99/5 in 35 overs lost to Karnataka 100/1 in 15.2 overs (Kashvi Kandikuppa 60 n.o.).

Head and Smith's hundreds put Australia in control at the SCG

The home side has a 134-run first-innings lead over England, with three wickets in hand, at close on the third day

THE ASHES

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Run-machine Travis Head hit a swashbuckling 163 and Steve Smith a composed unbeaten 129 as Australia built a 134-run lead over England to seize control on day three of the fifth and final Ashes Test on Tuesday.

It was destructive opener Head's third ton of the series, to go with the phenomenal match-winning 123 he made in Perth and 170 at Adelaide.

Smith was equally impressive, with his first hundred of the series driving the host to 518 for seven at stumps, in reply to England's 384, at a packed Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG).

Beau Webster was alongside him on 42 at close. Australia leads the series 3-1 and has already retained the Ashes, with England desperate for another morale-boosting win after victory in the previous Test in Melbourne.

Tall deeds: Smith brought up his 13th Ashes century, second only to Sir Don Bradman. REUTERS

Head brought up three figures off just 105 balls and seemed destined to score 200.

But he came undone in the third over after lunch by the part-time spin of Jacob Bethell, who was bowling for the first time in the series. In his second over, Bethell trapped the 32-year-old leg-before attempting a sweep shot to end a magnificent knock.

Skipper Smith treated Bethell with contempt, launching him for a big six on his way to a 37th Test hundred.

It was Smith's 13th Ashes century to move past England legend Jack Hobbs. Only Donald Bradman, with 19, has more.

SCOREBOARD

England — 1st innings: 384.
Australia — 1st innings: Travis Head lbw b Bethell 163, Jake Weatherald lbw b Stokes 21, Marnus Labuschagne c Bethell b Stokes 48, Michael Neser c Smith b Carse 24, Steve Smith (batting) 129, Usman Khawaja lbw b Carse 17, Alex Carey c Bethell b Tongue 16, Cameron Green c Duckett b Carse 37, Beau Webster (batting) 42; Extras (b-4, lb-8, nb-5, w-4): 21; Total (for seven wkts. in 124 overs): 518.
Fall of wickets: 1-57, 2-162, 3-234, 4-288, 5-339, 6-366, 7-437.
England bowling: Carse 23-2-108-3, Potts 25-1-141-0, Tongue 27-0-89-1, Stokes 26-6-87-2, Jacks 8-0-31-0, Bethell 15-1-50-1.

Lovlina edges Saweety; Panghal overcomes Priyanshu's challenge

BOXING

Uthra Ganesan
GREATER NOIDA

Close bout: Panghal, right, was stretched by youngster Priyanshu. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It was expected to be a fiery contest and it did not disappoint. Former World championship silver medallist Saweety Boora faced off against Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain in the second round of the 75kg category at the National boxing championships here.

The latter took the honours, winning a close encounter 3-2 on Tuesday.

It was the most awaited bout of the day and there was no tentativeness or sizing up between the two boxers. Saweety was on the attack from the beginning and kept up the punches, relying more on speed and aggression.

It took Lovlina by surprise and the opening round duly went to the elder pro from Haryana. But Lovlina gradually asserted herself, using her height and reach to advantage, pushing back Saweety and taking the second round by the tiniest of margins even as the bout resembled more of a wrestling contest. Both also received a warning each from the referee, but the physical play continued before the decision went in the Assamese boxer's favour.

"I am disappointed with the result because if you see the entire bout even in slow motion, none of the punches she was awarded points for even touched me," Saweety said.

Amit Panghal, too, just escaped an upset in the 55kg section. Haryana youngster Priyanshu won the opening round before Panghal took the second and dominated the third.

He brought all his experience to edge his opponent and stayed on course for a showdown with Jadumani Singh.

Important results:
Women: 51kg: Nitu Ghanghas (Har) bt Priya (HP) RSC; **54kg:** Sakshi Chaudhary (SSCB) bt Manasa Veni Anakapalli (AP) RSC.
75kg: Lovlina Borgohain (Asm) bt Saweety Boora (Har) 3-2.
Men: 55kg: Jadumani Singh (SSCB) bt R. Parthiban (TN) RSC; Amit Panghal (SSCB) bt Priyanshu (Har) 3-2; **60kg:** Hussamuddin (SSCB) bt Ashish (HP) 5-0.

Delhi gets past Punjab in a topsy-turvy contest

Unstoppable: Delhi's Jeethandar, with 21 points on the day, proved too hot to handle for Punjab. R. RAGU

BASKETBALL

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

In a tightly contested match that saw four lead changes in the first quarter, Delhi prevailed over Punjab 79-62 to post its second win in three matches in the men's section of the 75th senior National basketball championship at the Nehru Indoor Stadium here on Tuesday.

The clash between the two northern sides was evenly matched in the first quarter, with Punjab taking the early lead before Delhi went on a 10-point run.

Punjab, one of the heavyweights in the nationals, then nailed two three-pointers to get its nose ahead 19-18. However, at the whistle, Ayush Sharma's spectacular jump shot three-pointer from the side put Delhi ahead.

From there on, Delhi slowly went about staying ahead by a handful of points as Jeethandar Singh was on the prowl, scoring 21 points.

Punjab was sub-par, making elementary mistakes, losing possession tamely, and even falling foul of the shot clock in the second quarter. Punjab, last year's runner-up, pulled things back after the half-time break but fizzled off in the final 10 minutes. Only Tajinderbir Singh kept the contest alive, but he lacked support from his teammates. In contrast, Delhi's Issac T. Thomas and Jeethandar were efficient on rebounds, helping their side pocket two points.

Earlier, Karnataka beat Rajasthan by 21 points (100-79) to secure its third victory and book a place in the quarterfinals.

In the women's section, Railways, Karnataka and Kerala booked a berth in the last eight after winning their third league game.

Important results: Women:
Group A: Indian Railways 113 (Pushpa Senthil Kumar 26, K.B. Harshita 20, Poonam Chaturvedi 14, Harima Sudari 11, A. Nitika 10) bt Maharashtra 66 (Siya Deodhar 12, Dhara Phate 12)
Karnataka 103 (Mahek Sharma 22, H.M. Bhandhavya 16, Shruti Arvind 14, Sanjana Ramesh 13) bt Chhattisgarh 50.
Group B: Kerala 102 (Aneesha Cleetus 24, V.J. Jayalakshmi 17, R. Sreekala 16) bt West Bengal 48 (Madhu Kumari 28).
Madhya Pradesh 70 (Manvi Srivastava 17, Khushi Pal Singh 11, Ananya Maheshwari 10) bt Gujarat 52 (Vidhiben Baria 20, Aahana George 10).
Men: Group A: Karnataka 100 (Arvind Arumugam 27, Pratyanshu Tomar 22, Shashank Rai 15, Aaron Monteiro 12) bt Rajasthan 79 (Ashish Trivedi 25, Akshit Hooda 22).
Services 76 (Himanshu Hooda 26, Ajay Singh 18, T.S. Santosh 16) bt Gujarat 68 (Sahaj Kumar Patel 17, Krishnapalsinh Gohil 16, Vinay Kaushik 16, Jigrajsinh Gohil 13).
Group B: Indian Railways 94 (Amrendra Nayak 15, Vishnu Prasad 15, Manik 14, Surya Pratap Singh 12) bt Chandigarh 43 (Sanju Gajbhiye 10).
Delhi 79 (Jeethandar Singh 21, Ayush Sharma 12, Issac T. Thomas 11, Abhishek Tyagi 11, Rachit 10) bt Punjab 62 (Tajinderbir Singh 20).

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